WALSALL
CHRONICLE

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Novel career

Sophie's choice to become an author

See Page 2



Pride grows

A taste of success for fruit farm bosses

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Vale of tears

Manager hits out over ref's decision

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HOSPITAL TEMP BILL GROWING

THE cost of hiring temporary workers at Walsall Manor Hospital has continued to rise as it copes with increased demand from patients.

Latest figures reveal that in February the costs reached £1.848m – an increase of £147,000 on the previous month.

The bill is for agency, bank and locum staff. It came after there was an extra £170,000 spent in January as the hospital battles against the need to use temporary workers.

Report by Craig Hughes

The Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group was earlier this year forced to urge people to only use A&E when seriously hurt due to the pressures on the service.

Latest statistics show that the cost of bank staff rose from £552,000 to £585,000, and locum costs rocketed from £368,000 to £492,000.

However, the bill for agency workers in February was £771,000, which was £10,000 lower than the month before.

A reason behind the increase in locum recruits was mainly in anaesthetics, when the consultant urology post needed to be covered by an agency doctor until a permanent doctor started.

A report from director of finance Ian Baines to Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust Board said: "Temporary staffing increased in the month, particularly the use of locum doctors. This was mainly in anaesthetic.

"In totality, temporary staffing costs increased in February to £1.848m. They still remain higher than previous years. The trust needs to control temporary staffing."

Hospital bosses have been trying to tackle the costs of temporary workers since the bill hit a record of £2.060m last September.

A recruitment drive for up to 130 new staff was launched last year and the costs had started to decrease, before beginning to rise again at the start of this year as the hospital has faced rising pressure.

Figures released last year showed thousands of extra emergency patients were treated. Between April and October there were 16,062 admissions, against a planned target of 14,723.

Leisure schemes' spending cutbacks

LONG-AWAITED plans to build two new leisure centres could be scaled back by cash-strapped Walsall council after costs rocketed.

New centres are due to be built in Oak Park and Bloxwich to replace dated facilities and tackle the borough's obesity problem. But on Monday it emerged that new options are being put forward for the projects, which include building two smaller leisure centres – or even just refurbishing one of them.

It was originally expected to cost a total of between £15-£21 million – but the proposals could be looked at again after it emerged it had risen to nearly £24m. It comes as Walsall Council faces £21m budget cuts in the coming year and 277 job losses. Council bosses had said the tendering process was nearing completion for the centres with work expected to start in spring. Options include still building a new Oak Park centre at a cost of £13m while giving Bloxwich a £2 million refurbishment.

The council could alternatively build two smaller leisure centres at a total cost of £15m, or carry out a study to see how the Bloxwich project can be changed to stop it encroaching on neighbouring Leamore Park.

Jobs created at opticians

AN opticians is to open a branch creating eight jobs. Specsavers is taking over a former hardware store in Bloxwich High Street on May 5.

Director Andrew Clarke said: "My two co-directors and I are delighted to be launching the new store in Bloxwich and are very much looking forward to welcoming customers."

It will feature three testing rooms and a contact lens area. There will be a week of activities at the store to celebrate the opening.

Bowling books boost

A BOWLS club has organised a book sale tomorrow, to raise money for security improvements to prevent breakins. Willenhall Trinity Bowls Club will hold the event at its green in Charles Street, Willenhall. As well as books, jigsaw puzzles, DVDs and CDs will be on offer.

The money will go towards putting barbed wire around the club's fence and make its security gates higher. The club was last raided in August 2013, when thieves stole cabling and garden tools. The sale runs from 10am to 1pm.

Well, Romaine targets different table



Saddlers player Romaine Sawyers tries his hand at table football with youngsters Margaret Wattis and Lewis O Rourke

YOUNG Saddlers fans have been buzzing this week after they got the chance to rub shoulders withWalsall FC player Romaine Sawyers when he paid a visit to a youth and community hub.

He called in at The Well project in Walsall Wood in his role as Walsall Football Club's ambassador for anti- racism initiative Kick it Out's latest campaign.

The Next 20 campaign has been launched to mark the 20th anniversary of Kick it Out which was started to tackle racism on the pitch and terraces.

The star joins an elite clutch of young footballers to lend their support to the campaign to raise awareness of the organisation's work among young sport fans.

Romaine chatted with a group of 18 pupils from neighbouring Oakwood School who also popped in the centre that hosted his visit. Organiser Lewis O'Rourke, of The Well, said: "The event went really well. Around 18 of the pupils came along with their headteacher. It's fantastic that Romaine took the time to visit our community hub in order to spread these important messages. Those involved at the Well are committed to working with the community and its partners to improve the lives of local residents. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Romaine for his visit."

He added that the initiative is aimed at spreading key messages of equality and inclusion. The Well, in Beacon Way, works in partnership with the police and fire service, Walsall Housing Group, Walsall Council to address social issues such as anti social behaviour, crime, youth and unemployment in Walsall Wood.



Romaine with Henry and Margaret Wattis at the centre

Housing plan looks set to get approval

MORE than 60 homes are poised to get the go-ahead for a former Walsall school site, in a bid to transform and regenerate the area.

A mixture of houses and apartments have been earmarked for the old Mary Elliott School and education centre in Brewer Street, Ryecroft.

Initial proposals were for just over 70 homes but plans which are due before members of Walsall Council's planning committee on Thursday are for 62 properties.

The plot has been standing empty for a number of years after staff and pupils at Mary Elliott Special School transferred to a £6 million purpose-built centre in Leamore Lane in 2008.

There were initially plans to use the old site as council offices for 200 workers to save paying for rented premises.

But these were quashed following a spate of vandalism attacks and a blaze which left the old school's roof partly destroyed in October 2009. It led to both buildings being bulldozed.

Just one formal public objection has been lodged with concerns over loss of trees, wildlife and road safety.

Councillors are being recommended to approve the application.

Health issue views sought

PATIENTS can air their views about health services in Walsall at libraries across the borough.

Watchdog Healthwatch Walsall has installed information and comment points in Walsall Central, Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills, Darlaston, Willenhall, Pelsall, Pheasey and Streetly.

Chief executive Matt Bennett said: "We want to hear what Walsall residents have to say about health and social care all around the borough."

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Mimosa signs up with restaurant

A RESTAURANT chain has signed up to a new £12 million cinema complex and will bring more than 40 jobs, it has been announced.

Asian buffet chain Mimosa will open a 370-seater restaurant at the Littleton Centre development in Walsall, which will also boast a nine-screen Vue cinema and aims to create more than 200 jobs.

Work is due to start next month on the scheme, which will be built next to the multi-million pound Tesco.

Bosses behind the scheme said talks are also taking place with other restaurant operators interested in taking over other units, with further lettings expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

The new restaurant will occupy 14,500sq ft of space within the development, which is due to open by summer next year. It comes after Cordwell Property Group, which is behind the scheme, exchanged contracts with Vue in January.

Mimosa specialises in Asian food and is expanding with restaurants opening in major new leisure schemes throughout the UK, including SouthWater in Telford.Sunny Grewal, director of Mimosa Restaurants, said: "The opportunity to be part of The Littleton Centre was too good to miss.

"It's location, visibility and accessibility made it the number one choice to open our largest restaurant to date. The opening of the Vue Cinema will create a huge footfall and with the future developments planned we wanted to be part of Cordwell's success story in Walsall."

Lorry fears in move to fill mine shafts

OLD limestone mine shafts in Walsall will be filled in to create open space under plans unveiled, sparking concerns from residents.

There are fears that the proposals for land off Winterley Lane, in Rushall, would mean months of noise and disruption. Some 46 people have signed a petition after it emerged there were would be 125 lorry journeys through the site per month,.



WALSALL PIC grab of this

There would also be six full-time workers based there.

And they claim some work has already started before planning permission has even been granted.

However the proposals are expected to be given the go-ahead by Walsall Council's planning committee next week.

A report to councillors by planning officers states: "Residents have objected as works commenced before planning permission was sought. They also doubt the programme of works would last only 12 months. They consider residents' concerns should take priority over developer profits."

The site comprises a stable block and large field previously used for grazing located to the south of Daw End Branch Canal. The proposal is to fill and cap the mineshafts and limeworks. The mineshafts will be capped with concrete.

The land will be restored to original land levels to return the site for open space.

Objectors are also concerned about the loss of archaeology on the site – but planners say measures have been taken against this.

And they say there are no concerns about the long term impact on the area. "Once all machinery, equipment and materials have been removed from the site and the land returned to its original form, the proposals would not have a significant impact on the character or openness of the green belt," the report says.

Hotspot of car crimes for village

THIEVES have been targeting cars in a Walsall village with a total of almost 20 crimes recorded in just six weeks. The series of thefts have taken place in Pelsall.

Police say the thieves themselves have been riding bikes up and down driveways and trying the door handles to steal personal belongings.

The Pelsall neighbourhood police team have issued warnings that vehicles being left unlocked are becoming an easy target for the offenders. Thefts took place on the estates either side of Wood Lane, Pelsall, and officers say there were 13 offences in February and a further six which took place last month.

Sgt Robert Harris, offered the following advice for householders: "When leaving your vehicle unattended remember to remove all items from display and lock all doors and windows."

Sophie driven to write novel



Author Sophie Dallaway, aged 23, seen with her new book The Car Won't Start, Love Dad

A FORMER student nurse who was forced to quit the profession due to health problems has had her latest novel published. Sophie Dallaway studied to become a nurse at the University of Wolverhampton but her career in nursing was short-lived when she was diagnosed with epilepsy in 2009.

She had to give it up but since then has written and released three children's books and her latest adult novel, entitled The Car Won't Start, Love Dad, has now gone on sale. The 23-year-old said: "My new book is about a middle aged man who likes history, alcohol and dressing up as his alter ego Gladys. I started writing it in January but I'd had the idea for it for some time."

Her first book, a children's novel called Alex and The Alien, was published 12 months ago and it was self-illustrated.

Miss Dallaway, who lives in Willenhall and attended Queen Mary's High School in Walsall, added: "I've always been a keen writer. I have loads of ideas and I've got quite a few books in the pipeline."

Transport authority jobs axe as cuts hit

GOVERNMENT cuts were blamed as bosses at the West Midlands transport authority announced 89 jobs would go. Centro is cutting a quarter of its workforce after the funding it gets from councils in the region was reduced by £7 million.

The councils fund the authority through a levy and it oversees public transport on their behalf but have all had their own multi-million pound government grants slashed.

The staff cuts are coming because councillors voted to protect services such as Ring and Ride buses, free tram and train travel for pensioners and half-price fares for children.

Centro chairman Councillor John McNicholas, said: "Balancing the budget has proved extremely difficult but our priority throughout has been to protect passengers as far as possible.

"However, cushioning the effect on frontline services means the impact on our staff will be harder. It is a tough situation we find ourselves in but one that is a direct result of the unprecedented cuts being imposed on local government."

Planned staff cuts include reducing the number of directors from three to two.

Revamp at chemist ends

A NEW-LOOK pharmacy has opened its doors after undergoing a revamp in a bid to improve services for customers.

The Anchor Meadow Health Centre team in Aldridge will pioneer LloydsPharmacy's new approach to community health .

As part of the transformation, the pharmacy now offers free, enhanced services for a range of conditions including skin health and pain management.

Touchscreen computers have also been introduced so customers can research their own conditions.

School closes

A SCHOOL in Walsall was closed on Tuesday because of a heating problem. Sunshine Infants and Nursery in Leamore was forced to shut to children. Parents and pupils were informed of the problem in Blakenall Lane which led to an unexpected day off for pupils.

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Election hopeful ready for marathon

A PARLIAMENTARY candidate is running the London Marathon on Sunday in aid of Walsall Hospice.

Douglas Hansen-Luke who is contesting the Walsall North seat in next year's general elections for the Conservatives, is doing his first marathon since 1985 to raise cash for the St Giles Hospice.

He said: "Making a difference is never easy so I'm hoping that Walsall recognises this and really pulls out the stops to support my chosen charity: St Giles Walsall Hospice.

"This will be a real challenge and I'll need all the motivation and encouragement I can get. There have been a lot of cold, early morning training sessions but it will be worth it when I finish and hand over the cheque to St Giles. I've been training by running the boundary of the Walsall North constituency."

Money raised will help provide specialist care for people living with cancer and other serious illnesses, as well as support for their families and carers.

Sharon White, hospice community fundraising manager, said: "We wish Douglas the very best in his marathon attempt."

Events are a church boost

A JEWELLERY party and an Irish Night held to raise funds for better facilities at a church popular with families made almost £700.

The money will be put towards a £57,000 fundraising drive to create new toilets and storage space at Delves Baptist Community Church, in bell Lane, Delves, Walsall.

Worshippers have permission for a single storey extension to create a new baby changing area, disabled toilets, counselling rooms and storage areas. There are plans for a Christmas present making party in October. Minister at the church is the Rev Ruth Wood.

Amateur fighters

AN evening of amateur boxing is taking place in the Premier Suite at Bar Sport, Cannock tonight. Tickets, which include a five course meal, are £55 for ringside or £42.50 standard and the event begins at 7pm. Call 01543 572092 or email info@premier-suite.co.uk

Devastated family release victim's picture



Killed – Jamey Coleman

THIS is the first picture of a 24-year-old man who was killed in a hit and run as he walked home from a night out.

It has been released as police renew an appeal for information about the death of Jamey Coleman.

The young man was knocked down on the A5 Watling Street in Brownhills at about 3.20am last Sunday on his way back from the nearby White Horse pub.

His family later released a picture of him as tributes continued to pour in to Mr Coleman, known as Jay C by his friends. Police are continuing to appeal for information as they hunt the driver.

And friends and family of Mr Coleman have taken to Facebook and Twitter to encourage anyone with information to come forward.

Sergeant Paul Hughes, from the Collision Investigation Unit, said: "Mr Coleman had been with friends in the White Horse public house and they were crossing the A5 when he was hit by an unknown vehicle. This is a tragic loss of a young life, I am eager to hear from any person who was in the vicinity of the A5 near to the junction of White Horse Road at the time of this incident, also any person who may have seen Mr Coleman and his friend in the White Horse throughout the evening."

Flowers have been left at the scene where Mr Coleman was knocked down.

Following the crash friends rushed back to the White Horse pub after the crash to raise the alarm, while others tried to help him as he lay at the roadside.

After the tragedy, a man living near the scene paid tribute to Mr Coleman and said he was often seen on nights out in the area. He said Mr Coleman was a former pupil of Brownhills School and he said he always had a smile on his face and was a 'cracking lad'.

Anyone with information is urged to call the Collision Investigation Unit by calling police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Wrestler's fall from grace to become a guns dealer

A FORMER Olympic wrestler who won a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games has been jailed for trading guns and ammunition in the car park of a busy retail park.

Amarjit Singh, from Willenhall, won 12 British titles during a glittering wrestling career, which saw him represent Great Britain at the 1996 Olympics. He even went on to coach other wrestling hopefuls in the West Midlands.

But the 43-year-old's fall from grace was documented during a hearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court where he admitted acting as courier for firearms and live ammunition in exchange for £100 worth of cigarettes.

The court heard Singh was caught with a second man, Lithuanian Andrius Valnuchinas.

Valnuchinas was seen putting a bag into the boot of a car driven by Singh at the Gallagher Retail Park in Wednesbury. Officers searched it and discovered a bag containing three new 7.62mm Tordev semi-automatic handguns, three magazines loaded with 24 bullets and a latex Frankenstein mask.

Singh told the court that he had known Valnuchinas for around three years having met him at a gym in Wolverhampton.Defending Singh, Mr Michael Wolkind QC told the court his client had lost 70 per cent of his hearing and suffered liver and kidney problems as a result of his wrestling career. "He has been a fine and successful competitor," he said. "He is bewildered and ashamed regarding his actions."

Singh, of Chiltern Drive, Portobello, Willenhall, pleaded guilty to three counts of possessing a firearm and ammunition. He was sentenced to six and a half years for the firearms offence with three years to run concurrently for possessing the ammunition. Valnuchinas, aged 39, of Lilian Grove, Bilston, is serving an eight year sentence.



Amarjit Singh, aged 43

A talented wrestler even as a youngster, Singh's rise through the professional ranks was a swift one. As a 19-year-old in 1990 Singh held the British and English 100kg title at both senior and junior categories. Four years later he would secure the bronze medal in the 100kg+ category at the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada.

In 1996 he would take his wrestling skills onto the biggest stage of all with an appearance in the Olympic Games in Atlanta. But his attempt at glory would end in failure when he finished 13th overall in the Men's Super Heavyweight Freestyle division.

Friends swing into action at gym



At the front on the sit up kit are Councillors Paul Bott and Chris Bott with Irene Semark and other campaigners

PARK users have turned out in force to get fit with the help of newly-installed exercise machines in a park.

The equipment including static cycling and rowing machines has been installed at a cost of £30,000 at Kings Hill Park in Darlaston.

The cash has been provided by Walsall Council after the park's friends group put in a request for initiatives to make improvements to the site.

Councillor Chris Bott, of Darlaston South said: "It's absolutely magnificent. Residents, old and young are exercising here now. It's been really busy since the gym was installed. It's been there for two weeks and is proving to be really popular with everybody. It's unbelievable. We would urge all the community to use it and to take care of the equipment."

The site, off School Street and Darlaston Road, has also been given new footpaths and the pavilion revamped as part of a major improvement programme to attract more residents.

Friends of Kings Hill Park members including Irene Semark, Doreen Laban, Wilfred Woodhouse, Jean Woodhouse, Joan Austin and Jimmy Wheeler have been trying out the gym.

Further work is planned with an expected £50,000 contribution from developers hoping to build on the nearby former Jebron factory site. Discussions are ongoing on how this money will be spent. The 85-year-old Jebron Works went into administration in December 2010 with 65 jobs lost.

NEWS in brief

Explorers sought to boost hospice

INTREPID explorers are wanted for a charity trek in aid of a Black Country hospice.

Fundraisers have the chance to trek to Petra, Jordan, to raise funds for St Giles Hospice, Walsall. The five-day challenge will take place in October.

Walkers will be able to relax in the Dead Sea, before exploring the city of Petra.

Fundraisers will have to pay a deposit of £199 and raise £2,100. Call 01543 434542 to book a place.

2,200 homes are hit by a power cut

A POWER cut hit around 2,200 homes and businesses today following two underground cable faults.

Among the homes affected were properties in Walsall.

Western Power Distribution said it was anticipated all customers would have their power restored.

Amongst those affected were Lodge Farm School in Willenhall where children were sent home.

The Bentley area of Walsall was also hit.

Advice due on funding projects

INFORMATION on how to apply for funding for community schemes will be made available at an event next month.

The Walsall Green Funding Fair is being held on May 22 from 5 to 7pm at Goscote Greenacres Community Garden, in Goscote Lane. It will show how people can get their hands on cash for a community project. To book email goscotegreenacres@walsall.gov.uk

One way system in place at street

A TEMPORARY one way system is in place for carriageway maintenance works this week in Stafford Street, Walsall, between the junctions of Littleton Street West and Short Acre Street from 8pm to 6am.

There is a signed diversion and the road will remain open southbound, in the town centre direction.

Party night plan

MUSIC lovers can enjoy The Soundations as they perform glam rock to the swinging sixties at the Banks's Stadium, Bescot Crescent, Walsall on May 30 and tickets are £5. Call 01922 651416.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



SO farewell, the Competition Commission, scrapped this week. Why was there only one?

□□□□□□□□

AS the world digests the massive UN report on climate change, does any part of it mention the thousands of British pensioners and drivers who did not die this winter thanks to the unusually mild conditions? Or does only bad news count?

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UKIP leader Nigel Farage took some flak for saying the European Union has "blood on its hands" for encouraging rebellion in Ukraine, Syria and Libya. Maybe he's wrong but, as I suggested some days ago, it would be good to know exactly what the EU was discussing with the rebels in Kiev before Ukraine's president fled. And here's why. One hundred years ago, as Britain declared war on Germany, many Brits were surprised that their government chose to get involved. Then it was revealed that Britain had a secret agreement with France. If Germany attacked France, the Royal Navy would defend the ports of northern France. We don't want another surprise like that, do we, Mr Cameron?

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OUR cat became suddenly nervous about leaving the house at night. Then we found the piles of earth and poo in the yard where the badgers had been digging. Cats, like any other creatures with brains, give badgers a wide berth. Which is why I'm not entirely convinced by the theory that TB can pass from badgers to humans through bite wounds on domestic cats. If a badger manages to bite a cat, it would surely kill it.

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I WONDER how many dim hacks dashed off outraged, thundering columns about the new Scottish coin bearing the head of a haughty-looking Alex Salmond, before realising it was all an April Fool's gag. Join the club.

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SO what is a reasonable length of time to hold an innocent person behind bars? John Craven is a street preacher in Manchester. He was approached by two gay teenagers who asked his views on homosexuality. Mr Craven read them the bible verses from Revelation about sinners burning in a lake of fire and sulphur, but stressed that "God hates sin but He loves the sinner."The boys complained to a policeman that Mr Craven's words were "insulting" and had caused them "harassment and distress." The copper promptly arrested the preacher and took him to the cells where he was held for 19 hours. Mr Craven has now won £13,000 in compensation under the Human Rights Act. A police spokesman says: "We acknowledge that we did make mistakes and, in particular, kept the claimant in custody for too long." Too long? I repeat, what do the cops these days consider a reasonable length of time to bang up an English citizen whose only offence is to explain his religion to passers-by?

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LATEST research suggests we need to eat at least seven portions of fruit or veg per day to live long and healthy lives. But you don't have to endure mountains of broccoli and kale. It is perfectly possibly to convince yourself that anything resembling a vegetable or piece of fruit will do. Try these tasty alternatives: bitter lemon, chocolate orange, toffee apple, peardrops, fruit-salad chews, raspberry ripple and three cherries on the fruit machine.

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THE House of Lords with 780 members is now the world's second biggest legislature, after China's Politburo. A new report suggests trimming the Lords by enforced retirement at 80 and axing the last of the hereditary peers. Here' s another idea. Let's chuck out all those Lords who, when they were MPs, raged against the Lords, threatened to scrap it and swore they would never accept a peerage. How quickly their principles crumbled at the whiff of ermine.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

MP heads speed cameras campaign



Mr Brown with MP Valerie Vaz

RESIDENTS are campaigning for speed cameras to be installed along a busy stretch of road in Walsall.

Andy Brown, of West Bromwich Road, Delves, said he has concerns about its safety. The 50-year-old suffers from multiple sclerosis and has been campaigning for both speed and watchman cameras for the last six years. He said: "I see cars coming down this road at an alarming speed and there have been many near misses as well as a fatal accident in 2011 and one car that crashed into my garden wall.

"I am worried about crossing the road because I have MS but I know I am not the only one who finds it difficult. I know money is tight but surely our safety should come first."

Kerbside detectors were installed on the stretch of road last year in a bid to stop motorists speeding. The hi-tech system cancels the request for the lights to turn red if the pedestrian has already crossed.

But Mr Brown said the measures have not made a difference and he has now called on Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz to intervene. Miss Vaz said: "I have written to the chief executive of Walsall Council on three occasions asking that the council take action to improve safety on West Bromwich Road. The council said it would look at options but have not yet done so."

Walsall Council was unavailable to comment on West Bromwich Road.

Chiefs at centre for blind to scrap fees

CHARGES at a day centre for the blind and partially sighted are to be scrapped from the start of the summer, it has emerged.

Walsall Society for the Blind is proposing to remove fees, which range from £1 to £25 a day, from the start of June. It comes as the Hatherton Road-based charity dating back to 1885 has come under fire for plans to axe its two minibuses.

by Craig Hughes

The move was criticised for leaving service users without transport and sparked a 1,000 signature petition.

Dwindling numbers have been blamed for the decision to cease transport this summer with just 31 people using the service, at a cost of more than £34,000 a year.

However, the board of trustees have revealed they do plan to remove costs for the day centre, which is open four days a week and allows people to make friends, play games and enjoy a lunch.

A statement from the Walsall Society for the Blind to a meeting of the health scrutiny and performance panel this week states: "We receive no funding towards the running of either the day centre or transport, which combined together cost the society in the region of £78,000 per year.

"The board of trustees understand the importance of transport to our clients and have created the post of a community engagement officer, who will be working with all those affected by the removal of transport to support them in continuing to access the day centre.

"We are keen to look at the use of volunteer escorts and drivers and setting up partnerships with local taxi firms, to ensure our clients are able to access a safe and secure, door-to-door transport service.

"The board has also proposed that following the removal of transport, that no charges will be made for any person attending the day centre, making it the only free day centre provision within the borough."

The charity supports 1,705 people affected by sight loss within the borough. It has been running two minibuses for the past 10 years.

Users of the service and Blakenall councillor Pete Smith decided to launch a petition calling for it to be saved. The matter was due to be discussed by the council's health scrutiny and performance panel yesterday.

Skills and thrills at show



Fashion and textiles student Nicole McNamara, aged 20, works on a headpiece

FOOD demonstrations, photography and engineering were among the activities highlighted at a skills show at Banks's Stadium.

More than 600 people flocked to the Sandwell & Walsall Skills Show, organised by Sandwell College and Walsall College. Students showcased how to build a house from scratch, repair windscreens, carry out sports massages and spot the latest fashions.

Signmaking and graphic design were also on display and people who went along also had the chance to add their amusing images to a giant inflatable Walsall College ball.

The Black Country University Technical College kept budding engineers entertained with a remote controlled robotic arm and people could also 'Ask an Apprentice' what they think of their job.

Employers such as the NHS, Tulip, Perkins, the Black Country Skills Factory and the AA were on hand to offer advice along with experts from the National Careers Service.

Hundreds at jobs fair

MORE than 200 people attended an employer fair run by a college. Around 15 organisations were represented at the event organised through the Walsall Adult & Community College.

It was sponsored by In Touch with Walsall and arranged for employers to raise their profile in the area and enable people to check the range of employment opportunities and courses on offer. Around 50 people signed up to new courses. Jev Bhalla, WACC's interim principal, said: "We were delighted with the success of our first ever employer fair. It was a magnificent turnout."

Fast-track funding to help with treatment

A BID for funding to revamp Walsall Manor Hospital to deal with rising numbers of admissions will be fast-tracked by Government chiefs, it was revealed.

Hospital bosses have said a £14m upgrade is necessary to cope with the rising number of patients.

It would be spent on two extra medical wards, the redevelopment of intensive care, work for the A&E section, and an extension to maternity facilities.

The hospital has dealt with increasing demands from the Staffordshire area and a recent norovirus outbreak put further pressure on beds.

Walsall North MP David Winnick had since wrote to NHS funding managers calling for investment in the site.

And he has been sent a reply by the NHS trust development authority (TDA) chief executive David Flory, who says the process will be sped up.

The letter says Walsall NHS chief executive Richard Kirby and his senior team have met with the TDA.

The letter adds: "The TDA has agreed to fast-track the approvals process to consider the business cases."

Festive CD for school

SCORES of young musicians at a school have been getting into the Christmas spirit early by tuning up to perform festive carols. Pupils at Aldridge School are recording their own Christmas music CD featuring the school orchestra, bands, choirs and talented soloists.

Richard Mason, school music director, said: "The last Christmas music CD produced by the school was 15 years ago and so we thought it about time to release another one."

The Aldridge School Christmas Classics CD will go on sale in the autumn.

Delays warning

MOTORISTS will be faced with hold-ups during water mains repairs next week.

Temporary traffic signals will be in place along Willenhall Road, near the junction of Queen Street, Darlaston.

Work will last until the end of the week. Restrictions are expected.

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Collision victim's death due to heart

A PENSIONER involved in a car crash was taken to hospital and later died of heart failure, an inquest has heard.

Barbara Dolphin, aged 91, of Broadway North, Walsall, was taken to the town's Manor Hospital's A&E department after she was involved in a three-car road traffic collision.

Shortly after the accident on March 24 on the junction of Broadway North and The Crescent she developed breathing difficulties and was transferred to the hospital but later died of heart failure.

Senior Coroner Robin Balmain said: "At the moment this is a natural cause of death but I am opening this inquiry to see if the heart attack was brought on as a result of the collision."

The inquest was opened and then adjourned for a full inquiry at a later date.

Police are now appealing for witnesses to the crash, which involved a Toyota Auris, Ford Ka and Ford Focus.

Other motorists received treatment for minor injuries.

Broadway North and The Crescent were closed for around four hours while the vehicles were recovered.

Trains chief due to visit

RESIDENTS will get another chance to meet train bosses to discuss services on the Chase Line in Staffordshire next month.

London Midland chief executive Patrick Verwer and other senior representatives from the firm will be meeting people at a drop-in event on May 15. It is being held at Tesco in Victoria Street, Hednesford. It comes after London Midland bosses came to the area last year to hear people's views about services on the Chase Line.

Cannock Chase MP Aidan Burley said: "The Chase Line is vital for many of my constituents."

Training boost

A BUILDING company has invested £140,000 in its new training centre. Inex in Spring Lane, Willenhall, has bought a neighbouring unit and converted it. It has been shortlisted for the third year in a row in the West Midlands Celebrating Construction Awards 2014.

Chip shop scheme for pub to bring jobs



Plans – the Fiery Holes pub

A NUMBER of jobs will be created under plans to convert part of a pub in the Black Country into a fish and chip shop and build an extension to create a store.

The Fiery Holes pub, in Moxley, was taken over last year by new owner Harjinder Singh Bagri, who bought the pub in in Great Bridge Road from Marston's Brewery.

He has retained the pub and extended the kitchen area to place a greater emphasis on serving hot food.

Since the takeover, the main bar and dining areas in the pub have been redecorated, while the garden and car park have been tidied up.

But plans have now been lodged with Walsall Council to transform part of the building into a fish and chip shop and build an extension to accommodate another store.

It is thought the plans, which also involve creating new toilets for the pub, could create four jobs.

A report, submitted with the planning application, says: "My client Mr Harjinder Singh Bagri purchased the premises from Marston's Brewery some months ago. He has retained the public house use with the addition of an extended kitchen to place more of the emphasis on providing food.

"The premises are quite large as pubs go and this is probably what led to the demise of the premises as a pure pub. My client feels that the premises are oversized and he would like to convert the left hand side of the premises to a hot food takeaway with the internal addition of male and female toilets, for use with the pub.

"He would also like to construct a side extension to provide a community store, providing essential every day goods for local residents and people in the near vicinity. "

The plans state that the site has easy access and a great number of car parking spaces. Meanwhile, proposals were also given the thumbs up for 10 properties on the site of The Red Cow in Pelsall.

20mph plan is drawn up for town's high street

PLANS for a 20mph speed limit through Bloxwich town centre's High Street are being drawn-up by council chiefs.

Highways officers are looking at safety improvements worth more than £200,000. The scheme is subject to securing funding and is part of a review of roads being carried out by the council. The proposals being worked on include a 20mph zone with raised table top junctions.

Alongside these are other possibilities, such as bringing in better markings, high friction surfacing and looking at access to and from side roads onto the High Street.

Council chiefs have said any work is not due to happen in the financial year and more firm details will need to be drawn up.

There were 25 accidents, of which five were considered serious, between November 2010 and 2013.

If funding is secured it is expected to cost in the region of £230,000 and has been earmarked as one of the potential projects to pursue next year.

Bloxwich councillor Fred Westley said there were problems with cars doing a banned manoeuvre and turning right from the High Street into Victoria Road, which should be addressed.

He added this contributes to slowing down the traffic flow and vehicles often struggle to get above 20mph.

"We get people coming along the High Street, turning right into Victoria Avenue, and they actually hold up traffic," he said.

"We have got two pelican crossings within the High Street, we are talking about a very, very busy road with the amount of traffic going down there. It is a question of whether anyone can reach 20mph."

Cylinders threat in firm blaze

FIREFIGHTERS battled to prevent a gas cylinder from exploding when a severe blaze erupted in a garage workshop. A 150-yard exclusion zone was set up around the car repair business in the Birchills district of Walsall last Tuesday.

Flames leapt through the roof of the single-storey building. The garage and its contents, including three vehicles, were destroyed.

Eighteen firefighters converged on the scene in Hollyhedge Lane, near the Manor Hospital, at around 9.50pm after the alert was raised by passing motorists.

Group commander Dave Boucher, who headed the firefighting operation, said there was a risk to life if the cylinder had exploded. "There were more cylinders but only one containing acetylene which is used in the car repair trade for cutting and welding. But we managed to cool it down after a while and fortunately there were no homes inside the exclusion zone."

He said it was thought that the blaze was caused accidentally.

Ploughing ahead with food success



Richard Simkin is seen with kitchen manager Wendy Russon,after winning the Food and Drink Producer of the Year award

IT SELLS fruit and vegetables which are grown on site, and now bosses at a Staffordshire fruit farm are celebrating after winning a top award for their produce.

Richard Simkin, of Essington Fruit Farm near Willenhall, has been awarded a Taste of Staffordshire good food award. The judges of the awards, from the enjoy Staffordshire website, were particularly impressed by the emphasis the farm places on producing self-sustainable products.

As well as fruit and vegetables the farm has branched out since 2007 and also operates a butchery, deli, and a country kitchen.

The farm also produces a range of baked goods made entirely from ingredients produced on the farm itself and sourced from the surrounding area. Pork pies and sausage rolls have proved particularly popular among visitors, who still come in their hundreds to pick their own strawberries every summer.

"The pigs are born and grow up on the farm, are processed on the farm, and we source everything that goes into the pies locally as well," said Mr Simkin.

He added: "The butchery has become one of our biggest areas."

Mr Simkin has expanded the business since it began growing strawberries in 1978, and now employs 40 people, ranging from the kitchen staff and butchers, to those who look after the animals

NEWS in brief

Bargains on offer in sale at centre

THERE will be an indoor boot sale at a community centre that runs activities for older residents.

Stan Ball Centre, in Abbotts Street, Bloxwich will hold the event on April 12 from 10am to 1pm. Tables are available on sale at a rate of cost of £8 each or £5 for registered charities.

This will be followed by a performance of Mother Goose on April 15 at 11am. Tickets cost £4 each, but places are limited. More details are available on 01922 403351.

Sale to boost funds for group

THERE will be an indoor boot sale at a community centre that runs activities for older residents.

Stan Ball Centre, in Abbotts Street, Bloxwich will hold the event on Saturday from 10am to 1pm. Tables are available on sale at a rate of cost of £8 each or £5 for registered charities.

This will be followed by a performance of Mother Goose on April 15 at 11am. Tickets cost £4 each, but places are limited.

More details are available on 01922 403351.

School signs up for recycling bid

A SCHOOL in Darlaston has signed up to a new nationwide recycling initiative.

Pinfold Street Primary School has joined the scheme that will allow people to drop off waste packaging such as baby food pouches, baby wipes packaging, coffee packaging, pens and biscuit wrappers.

Waste can be dropped off between 7.30am and 6.30pm on weekdays.

Swedish bank to open branch

A SWEDISH bank is to open a new branch in Walsall creating at least four new jobs initially.

Handelsbanken, which moved into the UK in 1982, has 170 branches in this country and more than 800 in 24 countries. Founded in Stockholm in 1871, the bank has existing branches in Wolverhampton, and Stafford.

Saturdays coming

THE Saturdays are to play Birmingham's NIA on September 15, as part of a Greatest Hit album tour. Tickets go on sale from 10am on April 9 from www.theticketfactory.com or 0844 338 8000.

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IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS

ACHIM Steiner, the former executive director of the United Nations environment programme, once remarked that the way we treat the bees would 'in part define our collective future in the 21st century'.

It is fair to say PhD student Michael Smith seems to have taken these words to heart, with his in-depth study of honeybees.

However – and feel free to accuse this simple Black Countryman of trivialising the fine research being carried at New York's Cornell University if you believe that to be the case – but I cannot help wondering whether shoving a handful of bees down your underpants was really what Mr Steiner had in mind.

Young Mick, who one suspects probably has a rather strange social life, conducted what must surely be the most exhaustive research to date into the subject of where it hurts most to be stung.

And he wasn't just playing around at it either. He spent 38 days testing 25 different body locations, making sure he got stung at least five times a day.

"We speculated it probably really would hurt to get stung in the testicles," he said, adding, almost with an air of disappointment, "It didn't hurt as much as I expected it to."

That's the trouble with those honeybees, they have to be in the mood. If their heart's not in it, you're just wasting your time.

Michael revealed that getting himself stung in some of the more intimate places required quite a bit of ingenuity and imagination.

"Some locations required the use of a mirror and an erect posture during stinging, eg buttocks," he wrote in his thesis, which is probably something you do not see in too many university essays.

Michael has ruled out extending his work into the field of wasps, or stinging nettles, or jellyfish. Probably just as well, better learn to walk before you can run, and all that.

And the result of all this work is that a bee sting on the nose is much more painful than one around the scrotum. But I think there is also a much more important lesson we can all take from Mr Smith's research. If you are at the moment deliberating over which university course to take, my tip is to stick to economics.

□□□□□

HEADLINE in a tabloid newspaper: 'Tories in food fight.' And for a brief moment I actually thought we might have discovered some interesting politicians.

Surely, the idea of George Osborne showering Phil Hammond with bread rolls and William Hague tipping vol-au-vents over Jeremy Hunt's head would do wonders for the way we think of our honourable members.

Sadly, the story beneath failed to live up to the billing, a dull yarn about school dinners.



Rescuing a trapped construction worker in Bearwood



The team winches a 30st woman out of her flat



Unpredictable – firefighters are sometimes called

Whatever danger they'll deal with it

Trapped worker or cow, a specialist team of firefighters is ready, as **PETER MADELEY** found out

THEIR challenges have included winching a man to safety from the side of a skyscraper to rescuing a builder covered up to his neck in soil at the bottom of an 18ft trench. And they also put out fires.

The West Midlands Fire Service Technical Rescue Unit (TRU) is a specialist team of firefighters deployed on the toughest, high-risk call-outs where disaster can lurk around every corner.

Based at Bickenhill Fire Station, near to Birmingham's NEC, the four eight-man crews support regular crews when their specialised skills and equipment are required. And the Black Country now has its own unit, with a 32-man team stationed in Wednesbury.

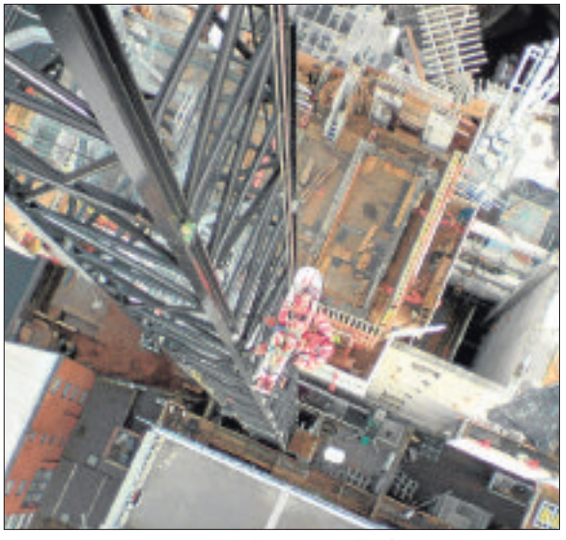
Collapsed

The units are charged with tackling the most complex jobs, including sea and river rescues, flooding assistance, rope, confined space and altitude rescue and casualty extrication.

One dramatic scene involved the TRU assisting other emergency services with the rescue of a construction worker who had become trapped under two tons of soil when a trench he was working on collapsed.

When the crew arrived at Barclay Road, Bearwood, the man was covered up to his neck 18ft down in the trench.

Crew Commander Rob Norman, of Blue Watch, says: "One side of the trenches had caved in leaving one of the workers trapped in the bottom of the trench." Only his head was visible.



Nerves of steel – 100ft up while Birmingham's The Cube was being built

"We worked with ambulance crews and other fire crews, using specialist stretcher equipment and a hoist to extricate him from the hole.

"It was a long and complicated job because there was a danger the rest of the trench could collapse at any minute."

Last year the team was called out to a house in the West Midlands to assist an obese woman who was trapped in her bedroom and was struggling to breathe.

"The woman was more than 30 stone and needed to leave the house for urgent hospital treatment," Mr Norman says. "She was having breathing difficulties but had become housebound and because of her size paramedics were unable to get her to an ambulance. She was basically trapped in an upstairs room."

The crew decided the quickest way to bring her out was to cut away the window frame of the upstairs bedroom and use ropes and a stretcher to winch her down

In February the unit was called to Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, to help after a large tree blew over in gale force winds and crushed a car, trapping three passengers, two of whom were seriously injured. Mr Norman says: "It was a delicate and intensive operation because the tree had completely crushed the roof of the vehicle and three people were trapped inside unable to move."

The units were developed in the UK as part of the government's anti-terrorism measures after the 9/11 attacks in the US and London bombings in July 2005.

"We are trained and kitted out to deal with large scale operations," Mr Norman says. "But the principal remains the same whatever situation we are deployed to deal with, be it a traffic collision involving heavy transportation or an animal rescue."

He adds: "If a job requires us to cut through concrete or steel we are equipped to deal with it, and the same applies to heavy lifting or rope rescues."

Since April 2013 the units have added a more conventional task to their remit – tending to fires. "Initially we were firefighters who dealt with almost every incident except fires," Mr Norman says "But that changed last year."

Pressure

The unit took on 32 recruits in preparation for the official opening of the Black Country's first Technical Rescue Unit at Wednesbury Fire Station on April 1. The trained firefighters have been through a rigorous training process

One, Steve Mann, says: "The training is hard and you have to take on a lot of extra skills. Often you have to make decisions quickly and under pressure."

A crew from the TRU was called to perform a training exercise when Birmingham's iconic The Cube was under construction in 2010.

Mr Norman says: "They were asking the questions 'what do we do if someone gets hurt whilst working 100ft in the air?', 'how do we get someone up there to deal with an incident?' Showing people how to deal with potentially difficult situations is part of our job."

POLITICS

WITH DANIEL WAINWRIGHT

DAVID Cameron reckons the Black Country has 'every chance of doing well' in its bid for millions of pounds of funding. The wish list includes work by junction 10 of the M6, a revamp of the Grand Theatre and Civic Halls in Wolverhampton, a new railway station for the city and training centres in Halesowen, Dudley and Stourbridge.

The problem the four boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton have had for decades is one of perception, of being seen as the poor relation to Birmingham. Talk of merging them into Greater Birmingham just puts people's backs up further.

While Birmingham is a city transformed, Wolverhampton is a field of broken dreams. The Prime Minister seemed to understand that when he visited Birmingham Airport and acknowledged areas like the Black Country had missed out.

People have seen artists' impressions and heard talk of multi-million pound shopping centres, urban villages, canalside quarters and new railway stations and get fed up when little happens.

Out of a long-awaited £176 million bus, rail and Metro 'interchange' planned for Wolverhampton, the city got a new bus station and a Sainsbury's Local.

The plans are still alive; the begging bowl keeps going out to central government.

Meanwhile Birmingham gets its £600 million refurbishment for New Street and its new £190 million library while the Public Arts Centre in West Bromwich gets shut down. Of course Birmingham deserves the investment. It's the second city.

But isn't it our turn yet?

□□□□□

Former Wolverhampton mayor Malcolm Gwinnett has never really struck me as a party politician. So I doubt his departure from the Liberal Democrats to join Ukip will cause Nick Clegg much more grief than the opinion polls already do.

Although it was a well-timed announcement from the Eurosceptics to bring over a prominent city councillor to their ranks on the same day their leader Nigel Farage went head to head with Mr Clegg in a TV debate.

The Liberal Democrats in Wolverhampton have just three seats, all of them in the same ward, Spring Vale.

Yet the past few years have been a troubled time for them. Another of their councillors, Richard Whitehouse, left them in 2012 following a falling out and then re-joined the following year.

Councillor Gwinnett's former colleagues think he has thrown away everything he once believed in to join a party that stands against it on virtually everything but none of this detracts from his record as a councillor who has always been prepared to speak his mind.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!



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Coins will not be change for the better

THE Government has decided to change the pound coin. Why? Because they have lost an estimated £45m in fake £1 coins. The new coin will have 12 sides (similar to the old three penny bit) and be made of two metals, the tails side to be decided by the British public.

That's fine you may say, the treasury will save £45m, but every action has an equal and opposite reaction. The reaction is that millions of shopping trolleys will have to be altered, parking meters will have to be changed, vending machines, and so on.

Well, let's go to the next lowest coin, we cannot, the 50p coin is seven sided. I know, we will go to the £2 coin, that is round, and we can use those in trolleys and meters, etc. You can see where this is going.

Councils at first will moan about changing parking meters and charges, then rub their hands together with glee. Parking meters do not give change, so guess what, they will make a fortune. So the Government, mark my words, will make the £2 coin the most popular denomination.

A PARKER, Willenhall

Track back to railways of old days

BRITAIN'S railways were nationalised by Labour in 1948 and returned to private hands by John Major's government in 1993.

A recent Yougov.uk survey revealed that 66 per cent of those asked support re-nationalising the railway companies. There is an overwhelming case for re-nationalisation.

Privatisation has doubled the cost of railways to Taxpayers.

Dividend payouts, inefficient private sector financing, fragmented railways created £1bn wastage a year enough to cut rail fares by 20 per cent.

Imagine how much customers would benefit.

The East Coast line is still run by a publicly owned company and makes money to re-invest in the railway.

Sadly, the current government intends to privatise it post haste, again, costing the taxpayers millions of pounds. Re-nationalise the railway network now; it will bring better value for all.

CLLR DOUG JAMES
Walsall

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Walsall.chron
@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

A pint and a ciggie will be a vote winner

WELL done George. Your budget announcement demonstrates your continuing commitment to bleed smokers into an anaemic state and further inflate the exchequer's coffers.

Meanwhile, consideration is again shown to consumers of alcohol by reducing the price of a pint, accompanying removal of the tax escalation.

But wait, I've now learned that deaths from liver disease in England have risen by 40 percent, between 2001-2012, and accounts for the fifth highest number of deaths in the UK. What is the primary cause of liver disease? Why, alcohol of course.

We smokers recognise that penal taxation on tobacco is designed to save us from ourselves, and has nothing to do with the £13bn per annum that is squirrelled away from our 'evil' but profitable habit.

Hold on. Does that mean that the tax relief on alcohol is designed to drive drinkers into an early grave and thus reduce the number of blue collar voters, who tend not to vote Tory? Clever move George.

As an advocate of 'everything in moderation', I enjoy all the legal and pleasurable 'vices'.

My vote will be going to that bloke with a fag in one hand, a pint in the other, and proper respect for our national heritage.

A V HARRISON
Great Wyrley

No time for their young

J DAVENPORT's letter regarding young mothers and their phones is really worrying.

I too have seen this happening on public transport quite often. Even very young babies need interaction with their mothers, this is how they learn.

How often they are ignored while the parent is texting and speaking on mobile phones.

The infants keep trying to get attention but to no avail.

However, not all mothers are the same.

How lovely it is to see them smiling and answering their children, as they should and not be occupied with all this new technology.

How often do you see mothers pushing a pram with one hand and a phone at the ear with the other! So sad!

I HAYNES
Willenhall

Boycott the Danish zoo

A FEW weeks ago I wrote to your letters page to express my disgust at the killing of a young giraffe at Copenhagen zoo, well guess what, they have done it again.

This time they have killed an entire family of lions including two 10-week-old cubs to make way for a new lion. It's about time this zoo was closed and its employees sacked.

I would urge anyone that is thinking of travelling to Copenhagen not to visit this cruel establishment, and would also ask to boycott the country until their government decides to act.

I HUNTER, Willenhall

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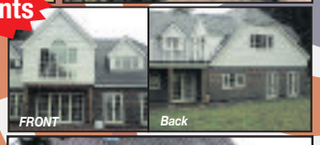
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Inspirational words for retreat at church



Evangeliser Thomas Paul

LEADING lay Catholic evangeliser, Thomas Paul, was in Walsall at the weekend, leading a three-day retreat for the Kerala Community at St Thomas, RC Church in Dartmouth Avenue.

Saiju Thomas, one of the co-ordinators of the Walsall Kerala Catholic Community said the three-day retreat was in preparation for Easter.Speaking of the evangeliser Thomas Paul, Saiju continued, "Thomas Paul used to work as an engineer back in India many years ago, but since he experienced the love of God, he became so passionate then he gave up his job and he started working as an evangelist. He is one of the best lay evangelists in the world. Through his ministry, thousands of people have come to know about Jesus. He is one of the greatest missionaries in the Catholic Church today."

Picture: Jozef Lopuszynski

Ofsted report leaves head disappointed

A HEADTEACHER admitted she is 'extremely disappointed' her Walsall school was rated inadequate by Ofsted.

Paula Ward said staff would do their best to raise achievement and improve opportunities at Shelfield Community Academy.

The recent report revealed that progress made by students in maths in Year 11 has been 'much lower than expected' and the level of achievement by sixth formers requires improvement.

Teachers were said to be missing opportunities to develop young people's literacy and numeracy skills, while they do not use information from checks on progress to plan work.

Lead Ofsted inspector Peter Humphries did say that the new principal, who only started in September, was having a positive impact and the behaviour of students remained good. However, it was said to be a school that requires special measures.

In a letter to parents Ms Ward said: "To support the academy in meeting these challenges, it has been identified as requiring special measures. Whilst we are extremely disappointed by this outcome, the report rightly confirms the areas of weakness that the academy needs to address.

"I want to reassure you that we will continue to do our best to raise achievement and improve opportunities. We will be working with parents, carers, the new interim executive board which replaces the previous governing body and our proposed new sponsor, Ormiston Academies Trust, to address the improvement priorities."

Lessons branching out

PUPILS have been creating a new woodland area and outdoor classroom at their school in Walsall by planting hundreds of trees to inspire them to get closer to nature.

Youngsters at Rushall Primary School, in Pelsall Lane, have planted more than 400 saplings on their school field after they were handed the trees by UK woodland conservation charity, The Woodland Trust.

Gemma Prestage, teaching assistant at Rushall Primary, said: "They were offering tree packs to schools and communities. We got selected to receive 420 British trees. We have a small forest area but we have extended it. Every child in the school has planted at least one tree.

"They are little saplings so they will take time to grow. It's like an outdoor classroom. Eventually, we are going to be taking groups of children out there. "We will get them dealing with nature. We also have hand tools. They can be used for coppicing the trees and sawing them down to more workable sizes of wood."



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Drinkers raise glass at first night of festival

HUNDREDS of real ale drinkers packed into Walsall Town Hall for the opening night of a popular annual beer festival held over the weekend.

Organisers of the Walsall Beer Festival said more people flooded through the doors on the first night this year compared to last year.

And they admitted that the 33rd festival was likely to be a record breaking one.

Ian Hughes, from Walsall Camra, said: "We had 350 through the doors by 8pm. Usually we have between 200 and 300 on the opening night.

"We are hoping to have 4,000 visitors across the whole festival."



Crowds seen at Walsall Town Hall



Walsall festival organiser Ian Hughes

Continental

Ale drinkers at the festival were spoilt for choice, with a host of tastes on offer in 123 beers and ales, and 32 ciders.

There were also fruit wines, continental bottled beers and perries included.

Maths teacher Jane Easley from Darlaston was enjoying her first Walsall Beer Festival.

She said: "It's my first festival. My other half persuaded me to come along. I've enjoyed the pale ales. It's been fun."

The 29-year-old's colleague Lea Malcolm, aged 33, from Walsall, who is also a maths teacher, added: "I've been to beer festivals in pubs before but never this one. I'm very impressed.

"I've been trying the beers with unusual names."

It was also builder Adrian Harvey's first time at the festival.

The 42-year-old from Cannock said: "My mate is in Walsall Camra and kept saying I should come down. I've enjoyed trying the pale ales."



Cheers, Lea Malcolm and Jane Easley



Adrian and Ashley Harvey, Steve Cattell

The beer festival was running from noon to 11pm giving people plenty of opportunity to try a tipple.

Mr Hughes added: "We've got live music tonight and an organ recital during the day. We're looking forward to a busy weekend."

The beer festival attracts around 4,000 visitors from across the region and other parts of the country each year.

Around 100 volunteers have helped to run the three-day festival this year.

Brownhills-based Backyard Brewhouse and Black Country Ales in Sedgley were at the event.

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Woman's pain after shocking discovery

A WOMAN who suffered a miscarriage three years ago has spoken of her pain after being told her baby's remains had been kept in storage for nearly three years.

The 21-year-old, who does not wish to be named, has instructed a legal firm to investigate after she was told by the Manor Hospital the baby boy she lost had been stored.

by Adam Burling

She lost the baby at around 14 weeks in April 2011 and thought his remains were cremated. Bosses recently revealed there were 86 occasions where remains from miscarriages or terminations were kept for longer than they should have been. Apologies have already been made and bosses say an investigation has been launched.

The woman, of Bilston, said: "At first I thought it surely couldn't affect me because a nurse had told me over the phone after I lost my son that he would be cremated and his ashes would be scattered with dignity. But I had a niggling feeling so I decided to call the hospital and I left my name and date of birth." She said she 'dropped the phone in shock' when she was told.

"I am still struggling to contemplate exactly what has gone on. It has brought back all my thoughts and emotions from the time."

Hospital bosses have decided to only contact five women, where records indicate they would want to be informed, rather than cause 'widespread distress'.

Richard Kirby, Chief Executive at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust said: "I would like to sincerely apologise to each and every patient who has been affected. The trust undertook an immediate internal review and on March 25 the Human Tissue Authority carried out an investigation and were satisfied that we met the standards required following the implementation of new processes and systems."

Friends go halves for cause by a whisker



Lee Makin and Graham Payne, who have had half of their beards shaved off for charity at TZ Salon

IT may not be a look that will catch on – but it's all in the name of charity.

Two friends have shaved off half of their beards to raise cash for a good cause.

Graham Payne, aged 66, and 33-year-old Lee Makin will now sport their unusual facial hair for the next week.

They both had half their beards shaved off at TZ Hair Salon, in Queen Street, Wolverhampton.

The pair have so far raised £50 for Meningitis UK and have been sponsored through several pubs. They hope to raise £200 in total. Mr Payne, of Pargeter Court in Walsall, said: "Cutting our beards is the only thing we can do. As you get older you can no longer run marathons or anything like that."

The beards took 12 weeks to grow before they shaved half of them off. Mr Makin added: "My partner doesn't know that I'm only getting half of it shaved off so not sure what she'll say when I go home."

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Pair are top of the chops after contest



Left, butchers Steve Turner with his brother Mark, after their success in the BPEX Regional Roadshow

A FAMILY butchers has scooped several awards for the quality of its sausages, burgers and pies.

Turners of Pelsall beat off competition from across the country to claim a haul of golds at the Bpex roadshow in Nottingham. A total of 13 foods were entered by the butchers in High Street, Pelsall, from a total of 341 entries.

From these they received gold for eight of their items and silver for the other five. Turners were also named the overall winner of the burger category. They received gold for their pork and leek sausage and also received top billing for their pork chilli and lime product.

Stephen Turner, owns the business with his brother Mark. He said: "It was open to any butcher in the country.

"It was fantastic, it was brilliant. It was well worth the trip."

Jobs axe at help group for families of disabled

TWELVE jobs have been axed by a charity that offered short breaks for the families of children with disabilities after it was replaced in a council review of services.

NCH Action for Children operated from the Walsall Resource Centre, in Pool Street, Chuckery, until last Tuesday. Services included after-school clubs and one-to-one support.

by Deb Hardiman

Projects were geared towards improving the quality of life for children and their parents.

Walsall Children's Services chief councillor Rachel Andrew insisted funding for children with disabilities had not been cut. The charity said redundancy procedures were under way involving 12 posts.

Action for Children's operational director of children's services Jan Stoll said: "Following a recent decision by Walsall Council, the services we ran from Walsall Resource Centre are now being delivered by other providers."

But angry parents have now launched an online petition in protest. One parent Claire Wain, of Walsall, stated on website www.change.org: "This weekend families, children and staff have had to say goodbye to a lifeline service to all who have used it, we the undersigned want to say to the council to keep their promise and re-instate some funding to Action for Children."

Councillor Andrew said: "We are sorry that these parents feel that children's services haven't kept our promises to them.We would like to make it clear how arrangements for supporting children with disabilities have changed. The council has not cut any funding for services for children with a disability. We have recently reviewed our contracts for the entire short breaks service and we now have new arrangements with 15 different providers."

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86-year-old favoured customer Jack rides past Russell Cycles



A typical sight of a boy walking past with his mother after a bike at the shop in the 1960s catches his eye



Jack Haddock talking bikes with Mark Sorrell



Russell Cycles' oldest and longest customer Jack Haddock with the bike he bought from the town shop

Riding back through the years with shop's 80th

HE bought his first bike from a specialist shop at the age of nine. And Jack Haddock has been going there ever since – even at the ripe old age of 86.

He is the oldest customer at Russell Cycles, which is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year.

The pensioner was under 10 when his father bought him his first bike from the shop.

F R Russell Cycles was established on February 19, 1934 by 28-year-old Frederick Rolan Russell, better known by his nickname of Nutty Russell.

Mr Haddock recalled fondly: "Mr Russell had just started up. I told my dad I wanted a bike to go train spotting. He got me a little one from the shop. I remember it having really small wheels. Mr Russell always treated me like a son."

Keen photographer Mr Haddock, who currently rides a Dawes bike, has been buying his bikes ever since from Russell Cycles, which has always been based in Stafford Street.

MEMORY LANE
by Laura Blyth

The former metal worker continued: "I've never stopped riding bikes since getting my first one and I've always had them from Russells. I've had three or four bikes from the shop over the years. It's nice that they are still in the same street they've been since opening. I've been happy with the service over the years which is why I always go there."

Pictures

Mr Haddock, who never married, added: "I'll keep on cycling for as long as I can. I've cycled all around the Midlands. I use my bike to ride along the canals and then take pictures along them."

Mr Russell set up the bike shop with £25 and when he opened for business there were seven other cycle shops in Stafford Street. The cycle shop has been in virtually the same position ever since, although most of the surrounding buildings have been demolished.Mr Russell learned his trade at Taylor Bros in Green Lane, Walsall, then later at Stafford Street.

In 1954 he moved premises from 202 Stafford Street to a larger shop next door, at 201, which enabled him to buy handbuilt bikes from other manufacturers. In 1958 his son Gordon, on finishing National Service, joined him full-time at the shop, although he no longer works there. It is now run by his daughter Sue and mechanic Mark Sorell.

Mr Sorell, who has worked at the shop for 17 years, said: "It's a proud moment for us to reach the 80 year mark. Not many shops get to this point. We are one of the oldest shops in Walsall. Our best sellers are the Giant Mountain bikes."We don't sell Raleigh bikes anymore though as they are not built in the UK." He added the repairs service at the shop was as popular as ever with the locals.



Russell Cycles, in Walsall, celebrating their 80th year, with repairs still popular – Mark looks at a wheel

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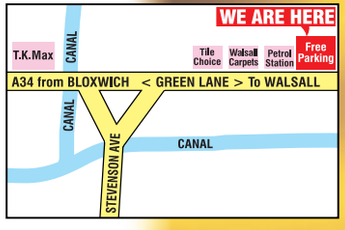
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Fight lost to remove road traffic chicanes

CAMPAIGNERS who called for traffic calming chicanes to be dug up from their street over complaints they were having the opposite effect, have lost their battle to remove them.

A highways consultation carried out with householders showed that only a quarter were in favour of replacing the chicanes that were installed 10 years ago with speed humps instead.

Residents and traders, in Dangerfield Lane, in Moxley, say boy racers and other drivers are swerving between two chicanes since they were installed many years ago.

Trader and campaign organiser Bhupinder Singh Kullar, of Tubsy's Store, said he was disappointed with the result. He collected a 200-name petition that demanded action after accident near misses, problems with parking and rat-running along the road which links the A4038 Moxley Road and the A41 Black Country Route.

Mr Singh Kullar said: "I'm really quite disgusted with the way the consultation was done. The letters went out to Dangerfield Lane residents, but the issues also affect those people living in the side streets and they weren't consulted by the council. At school time I get no passing trade because of the indiscriminate parking outside the shop."

Councillor Adrian Andrew, cabinet member for regeneration with Walsall Council's Coalition, said: "We received a petition from local residents requesting the removal of chicanes along Dangerfield Road. The road is a 20mph zone and relies on traffic calming measures to control the speed of vehicles using the route so if the chicanes were removed then it would be necessary to replace them with an alternative form of traffic calming. The most effective alternative in this instance would be to install speed cushions in place of the chicanes.

"We decided to consult with local residents on which form of traffic calming is preferred and the consultation revealed that only 25 per cent were in favour of replacing the existing chicanes with speed cushions."

Darlaston South independent councillor Paul Bott said: "I'm disappointed with the outcome because this is a big problem."



Councillors Paul and Chris Bott with trader Rajwinde Kullar and the petition

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School scheme at former pub is thrown out

A BID to open an independent secondary school for up to 220 girls has been rejected by council chiefs amid concerns over the extra traffic it would generate.

It had been proposed to convert the old Birchills Tavern pub in Walsall into the IQRA Academy which would teach GCSE classes from September. But it has been refused by Walsall Council officers under delegated powers with other concerns including the lack of sports provision facilities. The building in Birchills Street has been used for evening classes by a nearby mosque.

However, the application for a fully operational school was put forward by the Pakistan Muslim Welfare Association.

The site was purchased after closing down as a pub a number of years ago. In the decision statement explaining why the plans had been turned down, council head of planning David Elsworthy said: "The application by its very nature would give rise to an increase in vehicle movements to and from the site.

"The application has failed to demonstrate the existing public transport capacity, walking/cycling capacity and the road network capacity. As a consequence it has failed to demonstrate how sustainable transport would be maximised.

"The application places a significant reliance on the private motor car and does not demonstrate that the existing road network would be able to accommodate the transport related impacts of the development."

The application was put forward by Dr Mohammed Salim Khan, from the association, who said parents had expressed an interest. The aim was for mainstream education in 11 GCSE subjects but also include Arabic and Islamic studies.

Players show the red card on closure move



Andy Adams and David Preece – a red card for the decision

FOOTBALLERS from a five-a-side team are holding up the red card to a decision to close a community association which will force them to leave their home of more than three decades. Pool Hayes Community Association in Willenhall will fold at the end of this month after 32 years because rent costs have rocketed by 143 per cent.

The group pays rent to use buildings on the Pool Hayes Arts and Community School site, with bosses claiming the increases imposed by the school mean it cannot makes ends meet.

Andy Adams, aged 60, of Quarry Heath, Penkridge, said: "We received a letter from the community association about what was going to happen. It's a sad thing to see it close. We've be at Pool Hayes for almost 35 years."

"There are about 14 to 17 of us that play football there but we are one group among many. We are trying to find somewhere else to go."

The association holds a senior citizens group, youth clubs, school holiday play schemes and stroke rehabilitation sessions, as well as leasing out its rooms for functions and sports teams. The school said it can no longer afford to help keep the association going.

Awards hope for company

A HOUSING firm is in the running for two national awards. Walsall Housing Group is nominated for two awards which recognise its drive to improving services for customers.

The group's IT and HR teams have both been shortlisted in the annual Housing Heroes Awards.

Judges were impressed with the group's efforts to introduce new wifi systems, while the HR team achieved a gold standard and a listing in the Sunday Times Top 100 Best Companies.

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Youngsters raise dough

A PENSIONER dishonestly claimed more than £34,000 in benefits over six years – while failing to declare he had thousands of pounds in savings, a court heard.

Nurul Choudhury, aged 73, had received payments for pension credit, housing and council tax benefits, saying in applications he had no savings.

But Choudhury, of Thorpe Road, Caldmore, was caught out when he bought a £64,000 house in cash last year.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court, he pleaded guilty to three charges of dishonestly in failing to notify of a change in circumstances to Walsall Council and Department of Work and Pensions.

The case was adjourned for a pre-sentence report and he will be sentenced at the same court on April 28. He was given bail on the condition he assisted probation officers until his sentencing date.

Father of six died after suffering heart attack and falling into canal



Canal fall – Stephen Keats

A father of six died when he fell into a Black Country canal after suffering a heart attack a month before his 40th birthday, an inquest heard.

Stephen Keats, who suffered from epilepsy, had been fishing on the Wyrley and Essington Canal when he was pulled from the water near Slacky Lane Bridge in Bloxwich.

The 39-year-old was found in the water by his partner of 25 years, Maria Banner.

He was rushed to Walsall Manor Hospital but was pronounced dead at 10.05pm on July 20 last year. His family paid tribute to a 'devoted father and grandfather.' Miss Banner, aged 43, said: "Stephen was so devoted to our children and our grandchildren."He was diagnosed with epilepsy when he was 16 so I always worried about him but he liked his independence. On the day he died

by Charlotte Lilly

he went fishing and I went to the Arboretum but when he didn't return home I knew something was wrong and I thought he had maybe had a fit.."

Miss Banner met Stephen while she was a student at Manor Farm School aged 14. He was 11 and attended TP Riley Comprehensive School. But it wasn't until she left school that he plucked up the courage to ask her to be his girlfriend. The couple went on to have six childen together, James, 23, Selina, 22, Nicola, 17, Stephen, 15, Brandon, 14, and Kane, 10.

Miss Banner said: "Our love blossomed over the years because he was such a joker and knew how to make me laugh which is why I fell in love with him. He became my best friend and soul-mate and now it feels like a part of me is missing.

"We have got three grandchildren and another one on the way so I will be telling them all about how great their grandfather was."

At an inquest held at Walsall Manor Hospital last Thursday, the coroner concluded he had died of natural causes.

Pathologist Dr Smita Deshpande gave the cause of death as a heart attack.

She said: "He had been taking his epileptic medicine and there was no overdose or any alcohol in his blood.

"You can have a heart condition without showing any signs."

Mr Keats of Valley Road in Blakenall, had no pre-existing heart conditions that he was aware of when he died.

A service held for Mr Keats at Streetly Crematorium was attended by hundreds of mourners.

Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain said: "This is devastating because Mr Keats was so young.

"I record that this is a natural event and Mr Keats died of natural causes."

£34k fraud in benefits

STUDENTS cooked up a storm when they held a bake sale to raise cash for charity.

Level three health and social care students from the City of Wolverhampton College held the sale at the Paget Road campus in aid of children's medical research charity Sparks.

The event was organised by Barclays Money Skills Week, a money management programme designed to improve students' financial and employability skills.

Students were given £20 and challenged to increase it for a good cause. Students made more than £30. It was part of a week of activities, with each curriculum area setting a challenge.

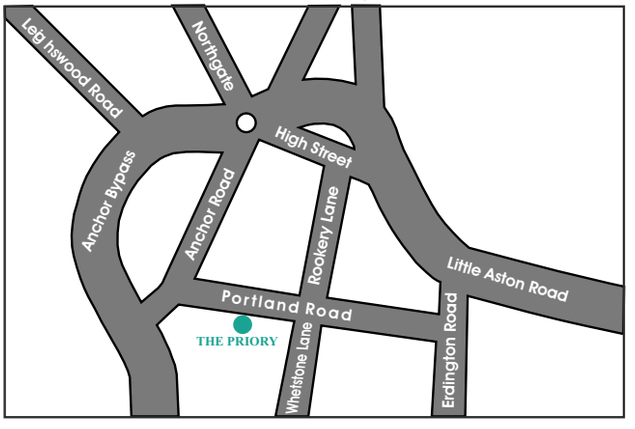
Hair and beauty students organised a fashion show, construction students upcycled items and sports students took part in a healthy living activity.

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Footballing stars help to kick off fundraiser

TWO former Black Country footballing stars came together to help raise funds for an historic football club.

Don Goodman and Steve Daley were on hand as footballing memorabilia went under the hammer to raise money for Darlaston Town (1874) FC.

The original club folded last year after 139 years but a new club has been formed with a view to entering the league again next season.

A fundraising committee has been raising cash to help support its return to action. Among the lots that went under the hammer at Darlaston Town Hall on Friday night was a signed Kenny Dalglish Liverpool shirt, which sold for £120. The Liverpool legend pledged his support after reading about the club's plight and also sent in a letter of support.



Don Goodman and Steve Daley look at items up for auction during the fundraiser



Darlaston Town Hall is packed out for the special night to help the club

Scrapbook

There were also signed England and Wolves shirts as well as a West Bromwich Albion shirt signed by former Baggies star Tony 'Bomber' Brown.

Also for sale was a colour photograph of the 1966 England World Cup winning squad signed by nine of the team and a signed Paul Gascoigne and ex-Wolves striker Steve Bull framed colour photo from when they were playing for England.

A number of signed pictures from a scrapbook put together by Wolves legend Bert Williams were also included in the auction, which were donated by Normal Lester, from Willenhall.

Don Goodman, who played for West Bromwich Albion, Wolves and Walsall said: "It was a great turnout. These sorts of clubs are the lifeblood of football and it's clear to see that it is still important in the area. I started off at a club like this playing when I was 15 in the senior team and there is no doubt I wouldn't be a professional if it wasn't for clubs like this."

Steve Daley, who also played for Wolves and Walsall before managing Bilston Town, said: "It's absolutely a club that people in the area need and there have been some good players who have gone on to play in the football league who have started off at Darlaston." A committee was set up in September to generate £5,000 to cover costs, rent, registration fees and kits. That target has since been reached and bosses are looking to raise another £5,000 running costs. The team's city ground base needs new fences and walls and talks are being held with the council to decide whether the club will stay there or move to a new location.

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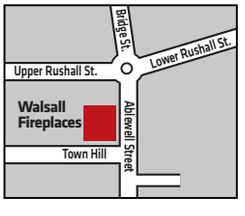
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Town fertility clinic's new £3m HQ now taking shape

PLANS for the relocation of an Aldridge-based fertility clinic are gaining momentum after the facility's 21-year tenure as a specialised service in the town.

Midland Fertility Services is moving from its Court Parade premises to a new larger £3 million state-of- the art centre as part of moves to expand the business and improve facilities for patients.

by Deb Hardiman

The new super-clinic will transfer its highly-skilled team, all patient care and services to a high-tech facility 11 miles away at Ventura Park in Tamworth, offering almost twice the space it currently has.

Bosses said key improvements will include more room for hi-tech incubation equipment, and plenty of private parking for patients. Building work is under way at the new site, which is due to open in the autumn.

The extra space will also allow the clinic to develop the range of fertility treatments on offer.

It will continue to treat private patients and those funded by NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG). The service has 14 contracts with CCGs, including Walsall, Wolverhampton, Dudley, South Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent and those serving Birmingham.

Midland Fertility Services medical director Dr Gillian Lockwood said: "This relocation will enable the continuation and development of all our diagnostic services and treatments for infertility, fertility preservation and recurrent miscarriage."

MFS is the Midlands' longest established independent fertility clinic providing fertility treatment for both NHS and private patients and dedicated to 'building futures, transforming lives'.

In more than 25 years, MFS has achieved many 'firsts' in the Midlands, the UK and the world, and since it opened in 1987 more than 5,500 babies have been born after treatment at the clinic in Aldridge, near Walsall.

MFS offers a full range of services including: ovarian reserve testing; intrauterine insemination (IUI); in vitro fertilisation (IVF); egg freezing for cancer and non-cancer patients; egg sharing; recurrent miscarriage testing and sperm freezing.

Big match as Little set to be guest

TEACHERS will be joined by an Aston Villa legend for a charity match at Villa Park.

Aldridge-based children's activity and sports coaching company, Sports Plus Scheme will host the match in aid of the Cruse Bereavement Care charity on May 15.

Neil Probert, deputy head at St. Francis Catholic Primary, Shelfield, Alan Pearson, headteacher of New Invention Junior School, Willenhall, and The Bentley Federation's executive headteacher, Rod Dickson, will join teachers from schools across the West Midlands for the match.

The game will also see Aston Villa's legendary former player and manager, Brian Little, taking to the Villa Park dugout for the first time since his departure in 1998, while the game will be officiated by former Premier League referee Alan Wiley. Tickets are on sale now for £1. The proceeds will help the charity to provide support, advice and information to children, young people and adults who have lost loved ones.

Sports Plus Scheme managing director, Andy Mulligan, said: "We are delighted to offer families an affordable night of entertainment."



Ernie and Doreen Holyman with a picture from when they were younger

Doreen's stamp of approval

DOREEN Johnson put her foot down literally when it came to attracting the attention of her future husband. The wily teenager stamped on Ernie Holyman's foot at a party to celebrate her 16th birthday at a church hall dance in Aldridge.

Despite his bruises, 21-year-old Ernie asked if he could walk her home, and secured a date for the following week at the Avion Cinema in Aldridge to start a three-year courtship, and a marriage that has lasted 60 years.

The couple married at Aldridge parish church and held a reception at the local Labour Club before moving in with Ernie's mother in Paddock Lane.

Two years later they moved into their own home Berryfields, Aldridge, and started a family. Digger driver Ernie and Doreen, had a son, Ian and daughter, Jill, who have given them four grandchildren.

Firm pledge on land for developing

CONSTRUCTION company Bullock has announced plans to give housing associations access to land to build new homes.

The Aldridge-based firm that operates in the social housing sector said it has been working with some of the biggest landlords to see how they can work in partnership to increase provision across the country.

Bullock's new chief executive Ian Burnett says: "We've been working for many months now with housing associations up and down the country, consulting on the best way to develop more, much needed, social housing developments.

"We always have access to off market land and, as such, we can work closely with housing associations securing prime sites that are very often – due to their liquidated status – very affordable.."

Cake sale to help heroes

CAKES galore will be on sale at Aldridge Fire Station when the staff host a community fundraiser for the military charity Help for Heroes.

The event will be held on April 10 at Northgate, Aldridge, between10am and 1pm. All are welcome to pay them a visit in aid of the national charity's Colossal Cake sale project.

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Police in crackdown on car park cruising

POLICE held a crackdown to tackle suspected car cruisers who have reportedly been gathering on a Black Country budget supermarket car park and speeding down a busy dual carriageway.

The move follows complaints from people living in Moxley, who claim groups are gathering on the car park of an Aldi supermarket on Sunday evenings.

Officers have been working with the community to try to stamp out the problem.

And last night, police were out in force to raise awareness of the issue and to deter suspected boy racers from causing a nuisance.

A group of around 15 cars and dozens of bystanders began to gather on the supermarket car park, which is situated off the High Street, from around 8pm.

Police stressed no offences were committed but they arrived at the car park to speak to those gathered about the possibility of anti-social behaviour.



Sgt Lee Hale at the Aldi car park



Officers seen during the crackdown



The meeting of drivers and riders



The team in action on the car park

Dangerous

Sgt Leigh Hale, neighbourhood sergeant for Darlaston and Moxley, said: "There is no actual offence for parking on the car park as it is a public right of way.

"But it sometimes brings anti-social behaviour with it and residents have complained of anti-social behaviour, such as the noise of vehicles.

"Also if racing does take place, it is obviously dangerous."

Before the operations began, Sgt Hale said that officers would be enforcing minor traffic offences at the site and would also be looking at issues such as insurance and car checks.

He added: "Police are currently going for a high court injunction to tackle street cruising, like the one in place in Cannock. Police in Walsall, Sandwell, Dudley and Wolverhampton are all working on it together so there is not just a problem of displacement, with it moving from one place to another.

"It will have a massive impact and that is now going through the legal system. While that is happening, we want to do something in the short term to tackle this issue."

Police were keeping a presence at the supermarket for several hours last night and set up speed cameras on surrounding routes to catch any speeding drivers.

Aldi has said it is working with the police and local councillors to see what can be done to tackle the problem.

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CHOICE



Ant & Dec

Britain's Got Talent (ITV, 7.15pm)

Now that The Voice UK has been laid to rest for another few months, this old favourite is unveiled to the masses. You know the drill by now: thousands of hopefuls take to the stage for there few minutes of fame, while the camera cuts to Ant and Dec every few minutes backstage. Last year's winner's, the shadow performance group Attraction, went down a storm with the masses both in the show at the Royal Variety, as well as appearing in a lucrative advertising campaign, so who knows what awaits the 2014 winner – or winners? Naturally there will be plenty of witty asides from judges Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Golf: The Masters – 2014 Highlights. **2.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Final Score. **5.15 Film:** Shrek the Third. (2007) Animated sequel, with the voice of Mike Myers.

6.40 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a 1970s-themed edition, quizzing entertainment stars from the decade. The celebrity contestants are sitcom stars Anna Karen (On the Buses) and Sally Thomsett (Man About the House), radio DJ Ed "Stewpot" Stewart and Tiswas co-host Sally James, musicians Rick Wakeman and Roy Wood, and a pair of actors – Paul Henry, best known to Crossroads fans as lovable beanie-wearing simpleton Benny, and Madeline Smith of Hammer Horror fame. Who'll be best when it comes to being worst?

7.50 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. New series. Dale Winton presents the quiz show in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws and Lotto Plus 5 results.

8.40 Casualty. Jeff, Rita and Lily help a morbidly obese man get the help he needs, while Dixie bonds with an angry young motorcyclist. Robyn is flattered by Cal's support during an assessment.

9.30 The Guess List. New series. Rob Brydon hosts this game show in which five celebrities, including James Corden, Jennifer Saunders and Louis Smith, help answer all sorts of everyday questions.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Fulham v Norwich City at Craven Cottage and Sunderland v Everton at the Stadium of Light; National Lottery Update.

11.50 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Queens Park Rangers v Nottingham Forest.

1.10 Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: From This Day Forward. (1946) A couple look back on their relationship and consider the future in the aftermath of the husband's service in the Second World War. Drama, starring Joan Fontaine and Mark Stevens. **7.35** Great British Menu. (R) **8.05** Great British Menu. (R) **8.35** Great British Menu. (R) **9.05** Great British Menu. (R) **9.35** Great British Menu. (R) **10.05** The Living Planet. (R) **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age. (R) **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **12.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.30** Joan Fontaine: Talking Pictures. **1.00 Film:** Suspicion. (1941) A newlywed is convinced her husband is up to no good when his business partner dies in mysterious circumstances. Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Cary Grant and Joan Fontaine. **2.35 Film:** Rebecca. (1940) The naive second wife of a wealthy Cornish landowner is forced to live in the shadow of her glamorous predecessor. Romantic thriller, starring Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine. **4.45** Mountain Gorilla. (R) **5.45** Flog It! (R)

6.30 Escape to the Continent. Anita Rani heads to the Paphos district of Cyprus to help a couple find a home on a budget of £200,000. Away from the property search, Anita offers helpful tips on moving to the Mediterranean country and meets a food producer responsible for one of the island's most famous exports.

7.30 Golf: The Masters – Live. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the third round of the opening Major of the year at the Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia, where Adam Scott is the reigning champion. Angel Cabrera and Brandt Snedeker both moved from being two shots off the lead after 36 holes to being tied at the top of the standings heading into the final round, with eventual champion Adam Scott one shot further back on six-under-par. The British contingent failed to make its expected challenge, with only Lee Westwood in the top 10 after round three, tied for ninth and five shots behind the leaders. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter and Paul Azinger, and reports by Rishi Persad. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

12.00 Film: Catch a Fire. (2006) A man is driven to become a freedom fighter in apartheid-era South Africa after he and his wife encounter police brutality. Fact-based drama, starring Derek Luke and Tim Robbins. **1.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** ITV News. **9.30 Film:** Murder, She Wrote: A Story to Die For. (2000) **11.15** Dinner Date. (R) **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** Countrywise. (R) **12.45** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **1.15 Film:** Smokey and the Bandit. (1977) Comedy, starring Burt Reynolds and Jackie Gleason. **3.00** The Chase. (R) **4.00** Regional Programme ; Weather.**4.10** ITV News; Weather. **4.30** Live FA Cup Football. Wigan Athletic v Arsenal (Kick-off 5.07pm).

7.15 Britain's Got Talent. New series. Ant and Dec return with a fresh search for the nation's brightest new star, and there's a new addition to the judges' desk in the form of the golden buzzer, which gives Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon the power to send an act straight through to the live semi-finals regardless of their fellow panellists' opinions. However, they can each press it only once during the series. Leaving no stone unturned, the auditions visit London, Cardiff, Manchester, Birmingham and, for the first time, Belfast, as a wide variety of acts, from comedians to contortionists, singers to spoon players, compete for the chance to win £250,000 and a slot at this year's Royal Variety Performance.

8.30 Amazing Greys. New series. Paddy McGuinness and Angela Rippon host a game show in which young contestants take on senior citizens in a variety of challenges for a chance to win £10,000.

9.30 Law & Order: UK. Ronnie and Joe investigate the death of an elderly woman found at a well-known suicide spot, and Kate jeopardises her career as she struggles to remain professional during the case. (R)

10.30 The Americans. Elizabeth disguises herself as Clark's sister to smooth things over with Martha, and Philip works to clean up the mess of their last mission.

11.30 ITV News; Weather.

11.45 FA Cup Football Highlights. Wigan Athletic v Arsenal.

12.30 Through the Keyhole. (R) **1.25** Jackpot247. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.30 The Grid. **7.00** Brighton Marathon. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** How I Met Your Mother. **11.20** How I Met Your Mother. **11.50** The Simpsons. (R) **12.15** The Simpsons. (R) **12.45** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.45** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ayr and Newbury. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.25 Channel 4 News.

6.55 Lent Diaries. Short film going behind the scenes at Faithworld TV, a dedicated Christian television channel.

7.00 Grand Designs. Michael Butcher and Phil Palmer want to bring a touch of urban glamour to their new home at Christmas Farm near Newbury by creating a modern farmhouse that combines an open-plan party pad with functional spaces below. As the builders set to work on the handcrafted flint exterior, complete with a vast trapezoid window, the pair juggle construction with farming the land, and in an attempt to make the project work financially, they set up a microbrewery in the barn. Kevin McCloud follows their progress. (R)

8.00 Hostages. In the penultimate episode, Duncan discovers Sandrine's betrayal and decides to use it to his advantage in an attempt to help his family, who have fallen into Blair's hands. Meanwhile, Ellen has an important discussion with the first lady after the president's pre-surgery appointment. Toni Collette and Dylan McDermott star in the US drama.

9.00 Film: It's Complicated. (2009) Divorced couple Jane and Jake are reunited at their son's college graduation after 10 years apart, and end up sleeping together. Despite Jake's marriage to a younger woman and Jane's fledgling romance with a kindly architect, the pair end up having a clandestine affair. Romantic comedy, starring Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin.

11.15 Film: Epic Movie. (2007) Fantasy spoof, starring Kal Penn.

1.00 Film: Ashes of Time Redux. (1994) **2.35** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.35** SuperScrimpers. (R) **5.05** River Cottage Bites. (R) **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Access. **10.05** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!: Final Demand. (R) **11.05 Film:** Columbo: The Most Dangerous Match. (1973) Detective drama, with Peter Falk and Laurence Harvey. **12.35 Film:** Scooby-Doo. (2002) Live-action comedy adventure, starring Sarah Michelle Gellar. **2.15 Film:** The Goonies. (1985) Children's adventure, starring Sean Astin. **4.25** 5 News Weekend. **4.35** Most Shocking Talent Show Moments. (R)

7.15 Britain's Best Loved Double Acts. A countdown celebrating terrific twosomes, cracking couples and dazzling duos from the worlds of TV, film, music, animation and sport, as voted for by Channel 5 viewers in a poll. The programme features partnerships including the Two Ronnies, Morecambe & Wise and Ant and Dec, plus there are contributions by Ronnie Corbett, Zig and Zag, Cannon and Ball, Chas & Dave, David Baddiel, Penn & Teller, Trevor and Simon, Dick and Dom and Andi Peters and Emma Forbes.

10.10 Morecambe & Wise Live! 1973. The duo's performance at Croydon's Fairfield Halls, which was the only one of their stage shows captured on film and has not been aired on television for nearly 30 years. (R)

11.35 Film: The Plank. (1967) Two clumsy workmen carry a plank to a building site, causing various mishaps and accidents along the way. Slapstick comedy, directed by and starring Eric Sykes. With Tommy Cooper.

12.30 Film: Up the Chastity Belt. (1971) The identical twin of Richard the Lionheart is raised as a serf, and struggles to keep a cowardly knight out of trouble. Medieval comedy, starring Frankie Howerd and Graham Crowden. **2.05** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.35** Running Riot: Britain's Teen Criminals. The realities of life for some of Britain's most notorious offenders, including two brothers among the youngest in the country to receive Asbos, and a schoolboy-turned-armed robber. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. The team is under intense pressure to sell tickets. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. Double bill. The animals are frightened by the night. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. Mick and Ellie help to resolve a squabble. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. Marsha tidies up the workshop. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show.

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Top Gear India Special **8.30 Film:** Toy Story (1995) **9.45** Sweat the Small Stuff **10.15** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **11.00** Family Guy **1.15** Sweat the Small Stuff **1.45** In the Flesh **3.45** Kerry **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Wild Wales **8.00** Chemistry – A Volatile History **9.00** Inspector De Luca **10.40** Icebound: The Greatest Dog Story Ever Told **11.40** Natural World: Grizzlies of Alaska **12.40** Top of the Pops: 1979 **1.15** Sounds of the 70s 2 New Wave – Hit Me with Your Rhythm Stick **1.45** Chemistry – A Volatile History **2.45** Wild Wales **3.40** Close

ITV2

11.05 The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **1.00** Tom Daley Goes Global **2.05** You've Been Framed! **2.35 Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **4.50 Film:** Cats & Dogs (2001) **6.35 Film:** Year One (2009) **8.30** Britain's Got More Talent **9.35** You've Been Framed! **10.05** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Crazy Beaches **11.15** Britain's Got Talent **12.30** Britain's Got More Talent **1.30** Fake Reaction **2.10** Dads **2.30** You've Been Framed! **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.20 Hidden Treasure **1.20** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.25** Foyle's War **7.30** Rosemary & Thyme **8.30** Doc Martin **9.30** Joanna Lumley's Greek Odyssey **10.30** Cold Blood **12.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **1.50** Judge Judy **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

1.55 Film: The Last Sunset (1961) **4.10 Film:** Spartacus (1960) **8.00** Ali: Still the Greatest **9.00 Film:** Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **11.00 Film:** Scarface (1983) **2.20** Cheers **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** The Store **5.30** Teleshopping

E4

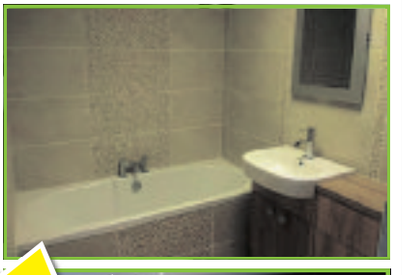
1.00 How I Met Your Mother **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **3.00** Rude(ish) Tube **4.00** Made in Chelsea **5.05** How I Met Your Mother **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00 Film:** Mission: Impossible 2 (2000) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory **12.25** Rude Tube: Epic Fails **1.30** 2 Broke Girls **2.00** Youngers **2.55** The Cleveland Show **3.40** Made in Chelsea

Film4

11.00 Five Children and It (2004) **1.00** Crocodile Dundee II (1988) **3.10** Fantastic Voyage (1966) **5.10** Gulliver's Travels (2010) **6.50** Mighty Joe Young (1998) **9.00** Unstoppable (2010) **10.55** Insidious (2010) **1.00** Inferno (1980) **3.20** Close

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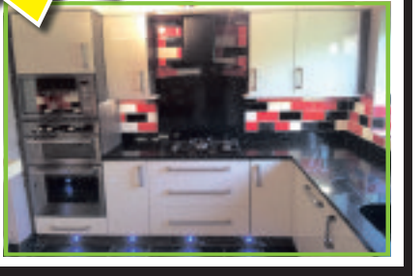




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CHOICE



Stephen Mangan and Gemma Arterton

The Olivier Awards 2014 (ITV, 10.15pm)

The screen stars have had their fun at the Baftas, the Oscars, the Golden Globes and all the other red-carpet bashes that make up the award season. So now it's time for Britain's theatre actors to take centre stage, as ITV brings us highlights from the 38th Olivier Awards. It looks set to be a good night for musicals, with the new version of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and the revival of Stephen Sondheim's Merrily We Roll Along leading the field with seven nominations each. So, have your jazz hands at the ready as Gemma Arterton and Stephen Mangan present the ceremony from the Royal Opera House. And if that doesn't sound theatrical enough, Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus are also dropping by to celebrate 15 years of Mamma Mia!

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.05** Match of the Day. (R) **8.30** Athletics: London Marathon. **2.30** Sunday Politics. **3.45** Bargain Hunt. (R) **4.30** Escape to the Country. **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** The People's Portrait.

6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. The Merseyside coast around Southport is the setting this week as Matt Baker looks at the history of shrimping in the area and Ellie Harrison visits a farming family as they harvest this year's first crop of potatoes. Shauna Lowry meets a couple of brothers inspired by the area's seascapes and talks to artist Antony Gormley about his standing men statues, spread out along the shoreline of Crosby beach. Tom Heap investigates the demise of farmland birds in the UK over the past few decades and Adam Henson looks at the latest gadgets available to farmers. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the experts pay a return visit to the Royal Agricultural University near Cirencester in the Cotswolds. Items include a mantrap that was used to stop an amorous lover intent on elopement with a vicar's daughter, a portrait of the first chairman of a well-known British insurance company, a 14th-century seal bought at a car-boot sale and a teapot which may have been handled by Lord Nelson. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.

9.00 The Crimson Field. Kitty nurses a badly injured major who wakes to discover his troops have been all-but wiped out, while Joan clashes with Sister Margaret over the volunteers' responsibilities.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Liverpool v Manchester City and Swansea City v Chelsea. Highlights of the Premier League matches at Anfield and the Liberty Stadium respectively.

11.25 The Graham Norton Show. Graham chats to a trio of stars from the forthcoming sequel to The Amazing Spider-Man – Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone and Jamie Foxx. (R)

12.10 Film: Outrageous Fortune. (1987) **1.45** Weatherview. **1.50** BBC News.

BBC2

6.25 Film: The Westerner. (1940) A wandering cowboy gets mixed up in a range war between cattlemen and homesteaders and becomes an enemy of a notorious judge. Western, starring Gary Cooper and Walter Brennan. **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. Football discussion with the Match of the Day team; Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05 Film:** Gypsy. (1962) Musical about striptease artist Gypsy Rose Lee, following her relationship with her ambitious mother. Starring Rosalind Russell and Natalie Wood, with songs by Stephen Sondheim. **3.25** Coast. (R) **3.30** Great Barrier Reef. (R) **4.30** Flog It! **5.30** Athletics: London Marathon – Highlights.

6.30 Golf: The Masters – Live. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the fourth and final day from the Augusta National in Georgia, where the year's first Major is set to reach a conclusion. Before last year's tournament, Australian golfers had finished in second place a total of nine times, but both Jason Day and Adam Scott were among the leaders for much of the week, and Scott eventually ended his country's agonising record by beating Angel Cabrera on the second hole of a play-off. Tiger Woods sporadically threatened to challenge, but could not find the consistency to end his drought in Majors that dates back to 2008, while Thorbjorn Olesen of Denmark found himself in the unlikely position of leading European in a tie for fifth, with Lee Westwood the highest-placed British golfer in a share of eighth. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter and Paul Azinger, and reports by Rishi Persad. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

12.00 Film: Phantoms. (1998) Two sisters and a sheriff try to find out why all the residents of their home town have vanished, with help from a paranormal expert. Horror, starring Peter O'Toole and Ben Affleck. **1.30** Sign Zone: Countryfile. Princess Anne invites Tom Heap to her Gloucestershire home, Gatcombe Park, which she runs as a working farm, talking about the issues facing the British countryside. (R) **2.25** Holby City. Harry is intrigued to learn Raf and Amy's marriage is not quite as perfect as it appears. Dominic offends best friend Zosia. (R) **3.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.25 Film:** Columbo: Murder, Smoke and Shadows. (1989) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **1.00** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **1.45** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **2.40** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **3.55 Film:** Octopussy. (1983) James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore.

6.25 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, asking three contestants to "see it and say it" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000.

7.30 Off Their Rockers. A pensioner attempts a daredevil escape from a care home, Rosemary needs help to locate her dog and Sonia has a quick nap on a comfy shoulder. Hidden-camera comedy, featuring fearless senior citizens playing pranks on the public.

8.00 Endeavour. A housewife found choked to death in her own home marks the third strangulation in a month, setting Oxford police on edge. As a manhunt begins in search of a murderer targeting married women, Endeavour looks into the origin of the silk stocking used to kill the latest victim, tracing the garment to its sole supplier in the city. However, as the suspect list narrows and the culprit stalks his prey with increasing desperation, Morse and Thursday find their private lives turned upside down and miss a deeper tragedy unfolding.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 The Olivier Awards 2014. Highlights of today's ceremony celebrating British theatre, featuring Abba's Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus in a 15th-anniversary celebration of the hit stage show Mamma Mia!

12.00 Premiership Rugby Union. **12.50** The Store. Home shopping. **2.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **4.05** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Street Velodrome. (R) **6.40** Goodwood 72nd Members' Meeting. **7.05** How I Met Your Mother. **7.30** How I Met Your Mother. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Secret Eaters. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.05** The Simpsons. (R) **2.35 Film:** Stormbreaker. (2006) Spy adventure, starring Alex Pettyfer. **4.25** Deal or No Deal. **5.25** Channel 4 News. **5.45** Lent Diaries. **5.50 Film:** Marley and Me. (2008) Comedy drama, starring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston.

8.00 Dirty Weekenders in France with Richard E Grant. The self-confessed curio hunter takes a trip to France to explore the world of professional antique hunters and dealers who seek out hidden treasures at flea markets and shops all over the country, hoping to find items that will sell in the UK. The actor is joined by two dealers to discover the stories behind a variety of vintage finds, as well as exploring the history and culture of the areas they visit. But can they recover their outlay in a weekend?

9.00 Film: The Three Musketeers. (2011) Premiere. A hot-headed swordsman sets off to join the King of France's royal guard, and falls in with a trio of former members who have fallen into disgrace. They join forces to defeat a plot to overthrow the king by an English lord who has built a deadly war airship. Swashbuckling adventure, with Logan Lerman, Milla Jovovich, Matthew Macfadyen, Ray Stevenson and Luke Evans.

11.15 Film: No Country for Old Men. (2007) A hunter takes the money left at the scene of a botched drug deal, but a merciless hitman is on his trail. The Coen brothers' thriller, starring Josh Brolin and Javier Bardem.

1.30 The Good Wife. A South American dictator causes complications in a dispute. (R) **2.20** The Hotel. The staff encounter several problems as they prepare for Ladies' Night, and one of the bedrooms receives a last-minute makeover as the inspector returns to assess the Grosvenor. (R) **3.15** Secret Removers. Claire Smith and George Johnson help a violinist to surprise her husband with a new family home in which he can work on his compositions without distraction. (R) **4.10** SuperScrimpers. (R) **5.05** Deal or No Deal. Beat-the-banker game show. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.30** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R) **10.25** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **11.00 Film:** Alpha and Omega. (2010) **12.40 Film:** Winnie the Pooh. (2011) Animated adventure, with the voice of Jim Cummings. **1.50 Film:** Surf's Up. (2007) Animated comedy, with the voice of Jeff Bridges. **3.25 Film:** Chicken Little. (2005) Premiere. Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Zach Braff. **4.55 Film:** Oliver & Company. (1988) Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of Joey Lawrence.

6.25 5 News Weekend.

6.30 Film: Spider-Man 3. (2007) A sinister alien parasite brings out the web-slinging hero's darker side, filling him with thoughts of revenge on his uncle's murderer, the shape-shifting Sandman. Meanwhile, he also has to contend with the challenge of his best friend following in his father's villainous footsteps – and a jealous rival developing superpowers of his own. Superhero sequel, with Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst and James Franco.

9.00 Film: Grown Ups. (2010) Premiere. Five friends attend the funeral of their basketball coach, and decide to relive their childhood over a weekend at a lake house. Comedy, with Adam Sandler and Chris Rock.

11.10 Film: The Goonies. (1985) The discovery of a treasure map plunges seven kids into the adventure of a lifetime to save their homes from developers. Children's adventure, starring Sean Astin and Corey Feldman.

1.15 Police Interceptors. (R) **2.05** SuperCasino. **3.35** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel **8.00 Film:** Toy Story 2 (1999) **9.30** Live at the Apollo **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Sweat the Small Stuff **11.15** American Dad! **12.00** The Call Centre **1.00** Porn – What's the Harm? **2.00** Killer Magic **2.30** Sweat the Small Stuff **3.00** In the Flesh

BBC Four

7.00 Danny Boy: The Ballad That Bewitched the World **8.00** Ultimate Irish Music at the Royal Albert Hall: A Presidential Celebration **9.00** Voyages of Discovery **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Definitely Dusty **11.30** Danny Boy: The Ballad That Bewitched the World **12.30** Arena: Amy Winehouse – The Day She Came to Dingle **1.30** Britpop at the BBC **2.30** Voyages of Discovery **3.30** The Sky at Night **4.00** Close

ITV2

12.25 Film: Dennis (1993) **2.15 Film:** Nancy Drew (2007) **4.25** Britain's Got Talent **5.40** Britain's Got More Talent **6.45** You've Been Framed! **7.15 Film:** Johnny English (2003) **9.00 Film:** Knocked Up (2007) **11.35 Film:** Paranormal Activity (2007) **1.30** Mom **2.20** The Vampire Diaries

ITV3

1.35 Agatha Christie's Marple **3.40** Rosemary & Thyme **4.40** Agatha Christie's Poirot **5.55** Inspector Morse **8.00** The Zoo **9.00** Birds of a Feather **9.30** Vicious **10.00 Film:** Private Benjamin (1980) **12.20 Film:** Murder by Decree (1978) **2.35** Judge Judy **3.15** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4

11.25 Ax Men **12.20 Film:** Night Passage (1957) **2.15 Film:** Spartacus (1960) **6.00** Storage Wars **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** FA Cup Football Highlights **10.00 Film:** Public Enemies (2009) **12.45** Benidorm **1.50** World's Wildest Police Videos **2.35** Highway Patrol **3.00** The Store

E4

12.30 Made in Chelsea **1.35** Revenge **2.40** Rude(ish) Tube **3.05** How I Met Your Mother **4.05** The Big Bang Theory **5.00** The Tomorrow People **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.35** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** The Simpsons Movie (2007) **10.00** Rude Tube: Epic Fails **11.00** How I Met Your Mother **12.00** Rules of Engagement **1.00** The Cleveland Show **2.00** Bob's Burgers **3.10** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 Baby's Day Out (1994) **1.00** Bandslam (2009) **3.10** James and the Giant Peach (1996) **4.45** Mirror Mirror (2012) **6.50** America's Sweethearts (2001) **9.00** Forrest Gump (1994) **11.40** The Beach (2000) **2.00** Heartbeats (2010)

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Film Choices

MONDAY
Mystery Woman, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A photographer inherits a bookshop specialising in crime novels and soon finds herself embroiled in a real-life conundrum. When her literary idol is found hanged, she refuses to believe it was suicide and tries to prove he was killed to stop him revealing the truth about an unsolved murder. The first in the series of whodunits, starring Kellie Martin and Robert Wagner. (2003)

TUESDAY
The Grudge 2, ITV, 10.35pm
After barely surviving a fire that burned a cursed Tokyo house to the ground, Karen Davis is recovering in hospital. Karen's sister Aubrey travels to Japan to bring her home, but her investigation into the suspicious events leading up to her sibling's injuries sets Aubrey on a frantic mission to prevent menacing supernatural beings from reaching the US. Horror sequel, with Amber Tamblyn, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Edison Chen and Arielle Kebbel. (2006)

WEDNESDAY
Scary Movie 4, BBC1, 11.55pm
Dim-witted Cindy Campbell gets a job as the caretaker of a haunted house, where she comes into contact with the ghost of a little Japanese boy. He tells her he knows a secret way to rid the Earth of invading aliens – but then he unfortunately vanishes before passing it on to her. Spoof horror sequel, starring Anna Faris, Leslie Nielsen, Craig Bierko, Anthony Anderson and Carmen Electra. (2006)


The Bourne Supremacy, Friday, ITV, 10.15pm

THURSDAY
Mercury Rising, ITV, 10.35pm
A top-secret government agency has developed a seemingly unbreakable code – only for an autistic boy to crack it in an instant. Assassins succeed in gunning down his parents, but a maverick FBI agent investigating their deaths finds the child hiding in a closet, and resolves to shield him from the hitmen on his trail. Thriller, starring Bruce Willis. (1998)

FRIDAY
The Bourne Supremacy, ITV, 10.15pm
The amnesiac assassin is living quietly in hiding, until his former employers come after him again and murder his girlfriend. A CIA operation has ended in disaster, and those responsible intend to clear their names by implicating Bourne. As the former secret agent tries to evade the hitmen on his trail, he also struggles to piece together the truth about his past. Action thriller sequel, starring Matt Damon, Brian Cox, Joan Allen and Julia Stiles. (2004)

Pick of the Week

The nation waits for a new star to be born

Now The Voice UK has been laid to rest for another few months, the talent search gap is filled by this old favourite.

You know the drill by now: thousands of hopefuls take to the stage for there few minutes of fame, while the camera cuts to Ant and Dec every few minutes backstage cackling like light entertainment's answer to Hamlet's Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

If that reference is too highbrow, rest assured there's no chance of that with BGT. It won't tax your literary knowledge at all, but it will delight, shock, entertain and leave millions in face-palm mode as the good, the mediocre and the genuinely hopeless deliver their act.

So, if Ant had any advice for the participants, what would it be? "Step it up when you get to the live shows," he explains. "Those acts that have got real talent raise their game and put a lot of thought and rehearsal into their act." Dec admits he is always amazed by the variety of talent on offer. "Every day we arrive at the auditions and don't know who is about to appear, so for us it's as surprising as it is for the audience. That's why we love our role on the show."

There's a slight change to proceedings this year with the introduction of the Golden Buzzer. Each judge gets the chance to press it, which will fast track the act to the live shows without any further auditions. As judges Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon are now all proud parents, there's perhaps little surprise the BGT marketing team have coined the phrase: "The Mummy and Daddy of all talent shows is back!' Hmm, not the greatest tagline we've ever seen, but it scarcely matters as many of the acts we'll see this year should than make up for any lacklustre straplines. And who knows? Some of the contestants may even end up as movie stars.

Since the series began seven years ago we've marvelled as Paul Potts went from phone salesman to singing sensation; gasped at Diversity's street-smart moves, and our ribs were tickled by impressionist Paul Burling. All have been featured in movies since, with James Corden portraying Potts in One Chance, Ashley Banjo's dance troupe stealing the show in Streetdance 3D, and Burling appearing in The Harry Hill Movie. And with winning pooch Pudsey about to be seen on the big screen in his own film, it looks like BGT-inspired flicks are set to continue for some time to come. Last year's winner's, the Hungarian shadow performance group Attraction, went down a storm with the masses both in the show at the Royal Variety, as well as appearing in a lucrative advertising campaign, so who knows what awaits the 2014 winner – or winners?

As the show kicks off, there will be plenty of witty asides from judges Simon, David, Amanda and Alesha, and no doubt a few plugs for Cowell and Harry Hill's new musical I Can't Sing along the way.

Let's hope the vocalists in this edition don't live up to its name.


The judges pass their opinion in Britain's Got Talent, ITV, 7.15pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
Undeniable
ITV, 9pm
Monday night, 9pm, ITV – which means it's time for another one of their WIPFPBD sagas (Woman in peril from psycho bloke dramas). Okay, that acronym will never catch on, but ITV bosses love turning out these formulaic strands regardless, and the latest one is a cracker. For newcomers, Claire Goose plays Jane Phillips, a woman who recognises Andrew, the consultant oncologist who killed her mother 23 years ago. Despite undeniable evidence, Jane remains convinced he is guilty, so when her prime suspect is reinstated at the hospital where he works, she assaults him. The supporting cast includes Peter Firth, Felix Scott, Christine Bottomley and Pippa Haywood.

The Treasure Hunters
BBC1, 9pm
After spending last week seeking out the earth's natural treasures, Dallas Campbell and Ellie Harrison turn their attentions to those which have been crafted by human hands. As the two-part documentary draws to a close, Dallas dons his diving suit and descends to a shipwreck where 5,000 emeralds have been found, before heading off to locate a treasure chest hidden in the Rocky Mountains and coming face to face with China's Terracotta Army. Ellie, meanwhile, walks into a bejewelled room in Russia which has been decked out with millions of pounds' worth of amber. She also talks to diamond-cutters about just how costly a slip of the hand can be, and stares into the death mask of Tutankhamun.

TUESDAY
The Big Allotment Challenge
BBC2, 8pm
Amateur stitchers have The Great British Sewing Bee, cooks have MasterChef, and people who can make really nice bread have The Great British Bake Off, so it was probably about time that the nation's gardeners got a chance to show off their skills. Presented by Fern Britton, the six-part series sees nine pairs of 'allotmenteers' taking on challenges designed to test their ability to cultivate fruits, vegetables and flowers that will meet the high standards of award-winning gardener Jim Buttress, international floral designer Jonathan Moseley and 'Queen of Preserves' Thane Prince. In this opening episode, the contestants face their first challenge – growing and presenting three matching radishes and seven perfect spikes of sweet peas, making up a floral arrangement and turning ingredients from their allotment into jam.

WEDNESDAY
The Hunt for the Boston Bombers
Channel 4, 10pm
This documentary charts the efforts of the FBI and Boston Police Department to track down those responsible for the bombs which killed three people and injured a further 264 at last year's Boston Marathon. Spokespeople from those organisations, as well as victims and witnesses relate the events of that terrifying day, as well as the procedures the authorities followed – and the dilemmas they faced when it came to revealing who their suspects were. Was it right to release photographs of the culprits in an attempt to flush them out, or did it lead to further acts of violence? There's also an insight into the part played by the media, and the lessons learned from the experiences of all involved.


The Treasure Hunters, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

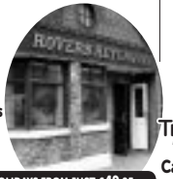
THURSDAY
Protecting Our Parents
BBC2, 9pm
It might shock most to know that there are more pensioners than children living in Britain, and more pressure than ever is being placed on the NHS and social services. This insightful three-part series examines the issue, as cameras follow teams in Birmingham dealing with older adults, charting cases over the course of a year from their perspective. In this first instalment, we meet Betty Williams, Jim Page and Henry Robinson, who have each found themselves in hospital as the result of a fall. They're all keen to return home, but the professionals are faced with the challenge of balancing their patients' safety with their hankering for independence.

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FRIDAY
The Great North Passion
BBC1, 12pm
It's Good Friday and BBC is marking the occasion by taking the story of the Passion, from Christ's trial to his eventual death, and transplanting it to the seafront at South Shields. If you don't think that sounds particularly biblical, you'll have to think again when you see the set for this live event – it's being staged in a cross made out of shipping containers. Presenter Fern Britton will also be bringing us this extravaganza of art, dance and music, with contributions form local performers and special guest, one-time X Factor winner Alexandra Burke. And documentary short films exploring both the Passion and the story of the North East, it looks set to be a celebration of the region, as well as a timely reminder that there's more to Easter than chocolate eggs.

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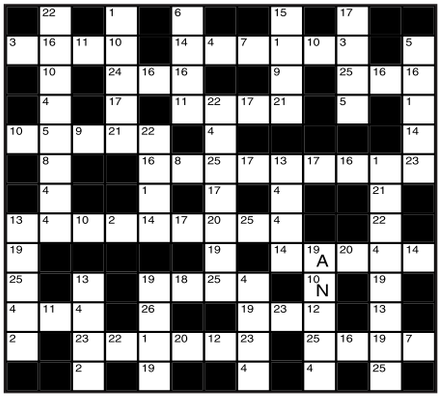
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Brain Gym No.268

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



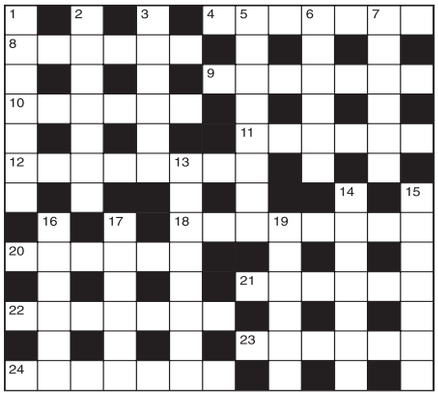
1	14
2	15
3	16
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6	19 A
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12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	N	P	V	G	I	Z	T	Y	S	L	F	J
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
O	K	R	M	W	Q	D	E	X	C	U	B	H

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

4. Waiting for Mass (7)
8. Sort of type inclined to impress (6)
9. Not straight (7)
10. This by itself is a very gradual process (6)
11. Catch a potential parent (6)
12. A water-colour? (3-5)
18. Drawing too much (8)
20. Keep your thanks in check (6)
21. A cook may use a tin one (6)
22. Strangely men fail to get excited (7)
23. Ensures one has a nap standing up (6)
24. Upset a caterer in a domestic row (7)

Down

1. Still without music (7)
2. Father on trial perhaps, and that's not all (7)
3. Farmer at the helm (6)
5. A rise for a cardinal (8)
6. Boasts in a letter to relations (6)
7. Possibly cares about a Roman emperor (6)
13. In distribution of income the company is thrifty (8)
14. Sharing out with relish (7)
15. Speech might indicate where one's home is (7)
16. Spirited comeback can cause a scene (6)
17. He may live for weeks on water (6)
19. Produced the rent (6)

Quick Clues:

Across

4. Debate (7)
8. Publicly (6)
9. Idiotic (7)
10. Ingenious (6)
11. Supplication (6)
12. Judgement (8)
18. Cloudy (8)
20. Disclose (6)
21. Well (6)
22. Attribute (7)
23. Expand (6)
24. Lower (7)

Down

1. Admit (7)
2. Protection (7)
3. Changes (6)
5. Example (8)
6. Awning (6)
7. Ice-cream and fruit (6)
13. Solitary (8)
14. First-class (7)
15. Reel (7)
16. Decline (6)
17. Vendor (6)
19. Mend (6)

Sudoku

	5	7				1		
				7	8		5	
2		9	4					6
		5		9		8		
4			2		5		9	1
		6		1		3		
7					6	5		3
	6		7				1	
8		4					6	7

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	7	4	5	1	3	8	9	6
6	9	3	2	8	7	5	1	4
1	5	8	6	9	4	7	2	3
3	6	5	1	4	2	9	7	8
7	1	9	8	5	6	4	3	2
4	8	2	7	3	9	6	5	1
5	2	6	3	7	8	1	4	9
9	3	7	4	6	1	2	8	5
8	4	1	9	2	5	3	6	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Street-lamps; 9 Nun; 10 Electrode; 11 Exact; 13 Tartans; 14 Ice age; 16 Espies; 18 Asinine; 19 Manse; 20 Chastised; 21 Sic; 22 Astronomers. Down: 2 Ton; 3 Erect; 4 Twenty; 5 Attires; 6 Probation; 7 Inheritance; 8 Persistence; 12 Americans; 15 Glitter; 17 Season; 19 Madam; 21 Sir. QUICK - Across: 1 Predominant; 9 One; 10 Definable; 11 Drake; 13 Letters; 14 Entice; 16 Speech; 18 Remorse; 19 Easel; 20 Extricate; 21 Hue; 22 Ingratitude. Down: 2 Rue; 3 Dodge; 4 Muffle; 5 Non stop; 6 Nobleness; 7 Cold hearted; 8 Lease holder; 12 Automaton; 15 Carrier; 17 Depart; 19 Exert; 21 Hid.

Do you organise events?

Get your event listed on all the important sites and publications including The Guardian Guide, Time Out, The List and local press.

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Visit www.listora.me/2014 to list your next event.



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Lapal Lane South, Halesowen

- Impressive Detached Five Bedroom Home
- Double Garage & Beautiful Farm Land Views
- Spacious Ground Floor Living Areas
- EPC Rating E

£699,950

Wolseley Road, West Bromwich NEW

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached Home
- Newly Refurbished
- Modern Kitchen and Diner
- EPC Rating C

£124,950

Mckean Road, Oldbury NEW

- Mid Three Bedroom Terraced Home
- Two Extra Large Bedrooms
- Large Low Maintenance Rear Garden
- EPC Rating TBC

£110,000

Blakeley Hall Rd, Oldbury NEW

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace Home
- Well Presented Through Lounge
- Downstairs Shower room
- EPC Rating TBC

£87,950

Little Lane, West Bromwich NEW

- Three Bedroom Terraced Home
- Two Spacious Reception Rooms
- Great For Investment
- EPC Rating D

£94,950

Throne Road, Rowley Regis NEW

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detaced Home
- Spacious Through Lounge
- Modernized Fitted Kitchen
- EPC Rating E

£107,950

Park Lane East, Tipton


- One Bedroom Ground Floor Maisonette
- Newly Refurbished Throughout
- Double Glazing Throughout
- EPC Rating E

£59,950

St Matthews Road, Smethwick

- Studio Apartment for Cash Purchase Only
- Close to Local Amenities
- Modern Fitted Bathroom
- EPC Rating D

£35,000

Dingle Street, Oldbury

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- Spacious Light Reception Room
- Two Good Sized Bedrooms
- EPC Rating D

£102,000

Dudley Road East, Tividale

- Refurbished Four Bedroom Detached Home
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- New Flooring Fitted Throughout
- EPC Rating C

£164,950

Thorncroft Way, Walsall

- Impressive Detached Four Bedroom Home
- Spacious Well Appointed Living Areas
- Garage and Driveway
- EPC Rating C

£215,000

Anchor Crescent, Hockley


- End Terrace Four Bedroom Town House
- Two Spacious Reception Rooms
- Close Proximity Of Birmingham City Centre
- EPC Rating C

£165,000

Sandwell Road, Handsworth Wood

- Six Bedroom Town House
- Two Spacious Reception Rooms
- CCTV System
- EPC Rating C

£895 + Fees Apply●

Lightwoods Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Three Bedroom Terraced House
- Modern Interiors Throughout
- Great Transport Links to The City Centre
- EPC Rating E

£750 + Fees Apply●

Well Street, City Centre

- New Two Bedroom Apartment
- Fully Furnished
- Attention to Detail Fixtures and Fittings
- Top Floor Apartment (3rd)

£700 + Fees Apply●*

St Christopher Close, W Brom

- Three Bedroom Detached Residence
- Very Large Garage Area
- Alarmed Property
- EPC Rating C

£650 + Fees Apply●*

Bleakhouse Road, Oldbury

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached Home
- Well Maintained Large Rear Garden
- Spacious Living Area
- EPC Rating D

£625 + Fees Apply*

Princes Gate, West Bromwich

- Modern Two Bedroom Apartment
- Fully Furnished to a High Standard
- Fitted Kitchen with Appliances
- EPC Rating TBC

£600 + Fees Apply●*

In our last 6 months: *

Average agreed sale (stc) of 13 weeks

54% of stock accurately priced sold

Averaging within 5% of the asking price

No Sale / No Fee No Upfront Costs



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REDUCED



HUNTS LANE
SHORT HEATH

- Traditional Semi Detached Bungalow
- Deceptively Spacious
- Generous lounge
- Well equipped re-fitted kitchen
- Superb conservatory
- Two bedrooms
- Superb re-fitted luxury bathroom
- Driveway
- Rear gardens
- Gas CH
- Double glazing
- No Upward Chain Available

£156,000

FEATURED PROPERTY
NEW



WYVERN CLOSE
OFF BROAD LANE NORTH

- Modern Style Semi Detached
- Prime Location
- Hall
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating System
- Driveway
- Tandem Garage
- Rear Gardens

£142,500

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK
REDUCED



MYRTLE CLOSE
WOODLANDS

- Modern Style Semi Detached
- Much Improved
- Very popular location
- Through lounge
- Dining room
- Fitted kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Driveway and Garage
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing

£129,995

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on **01902 631151**

NEW



REID AVENUE
SHORT HEATH

- Superb modern dormer bungalow
- Corner plot location
- Three double bedrooms
- Ground floor bathroom
- Large lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Garage
- Driveway
- Corner gardens

£154,950

NEW



POOL HAYES LANE
WILLENHALL

- Semi Detached Property
- No Upward Chain
- Spacious Lounge
- Large Breakfast Kitchen & Utility
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom with Separate WC
- Garage
- Driveway
- Pleasant Front & Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating System

£125,000

REDUCED



DEANSGATE
WILLENHALL

- Impressive modern semi detached
- No chain
- Spacious lounge
- Conservatory
- Dining kitchen
- Guest wc
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Driveway
- Garden

£124,950

NEW



DILLOWAYS LANE
WILLENHALL

- Extended Traditional Bay Fronted Semi Detached
- Through Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Superb Family / Dining Room with Utility Area
- Three Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Block Paved Driveway
- Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating System

£135,000

REDUCED



NEVIS GROVE
COPPICE FARM

- Modern Semi Detached
- No Chain
- Spacious Lounge
- Dining Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Driveway
- Rear Garden

£118,000

NEW



WILLENHALL STREET
DARLASTON

- Superb Period End Terrace Property
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Large Breakfast Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Two Large Double Bedrooms
- En Suite WC
- Rear Gardens
- Allocated Parking Spaces
- Gas Central Heating System
- Double Glazing

£110,000

NEW



WELLINGTON PLACE
WILLENHALL

- Immaculately Presented Period Semi Detached Property
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Utility
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Large Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Rear Gardens

£97,000

REDUCED



BILSTON LANE
WILLENHALL

- Period Mid Terrace Property
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating System
- Double Glazing
- Garage & Gardens to Rear
- No Chain

£86,500

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HIGHMOOR CL, COPPICE FARM
Three Bed Detached Having Lounge, Separate Dining Room With UPVC Double Glazed French Doors, Fitted Kitchen, Master Bedroom With Fitted Wardrobes, Two Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating,

£169,995



WILLOW GROVE, WILLENHALL
Three Storey Three Bed Town House Having Entrance Hallway, Ground Floor W.C, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms To The First Floor, Family Bathroom, Master To The Second Floor With En-Suite, & Garage.

£139,995



REDWOOD WAY, COPPICE FARM
Three Bed Detached Property Having Entrance Hall, Lounge, Spacious Fitted Kitchen Diner, Separate Utility Room, Family Bathroom With Shower, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Integral Garage, Driveway.

£159,995



THE CRESCENT, WILLENHALL
Modern Two Bed Semi Having Lounge With Open Plan Staircase, Kitchen Diner, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Block Paved Driveway To The Fore Allowing Off Road Parking For

£112,500



CHAUCER AVE, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Mid Terraced Property Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Side Storage Area, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating And Enclosed Rear Garden. Ideal BTL

£89,995



VICTORIA ST, WILLENHALL
Spacious Victorian Mid Terraced Property Having Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, First Floor Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, Gas C/Heating And Enclosed Rear Garden

£89,995



STEPHENSON AVE, BEECHDALE
⊠⊠REDUCED⊠⊠
Well Presented Two Bed End Terrace Having Entrance Hall, Spacious Rear Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Dining Room, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/ Heating, D/Glazing & Crete Print

£79,995



VICTORIA ST, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Two Bed Mid Terraced Property Having Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY OR BUY TO LET!

£77,995



W-TON RD WEST, BENTLEY
Well Presented Four Bed Semi Detached Property Having Lounge, Stylish Breakfast Kitchen, 'P' Shaped Conservatory, Three Bedrooms To The First Floor, Bathroom With Separate Steam Shower, Bedroom Four To The Second Floor, D/ Glazing, C/Heating & Driveway.

£169,995



BUCKINGHAM DR, NEW INV
Three Bed Semi Having Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Useful Side Utility Area, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/ Heating & Off Road Parking.

£114,995



BIRCHTREE HOLLOW, WILLENHALL
Extended Five Bed Semi Detached Having Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge Being Open Plan Into Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility Room, Ground Floor W.C, Additional Sitting Room, Four/Five Bedrooms And Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/ Heating, Block Paved Driveway.

£169,995



ABERFORD CL, WILLENHALL
Five Bed Semi Detached Having Lounge, Spacious Kitchen, Dining Room, Family Bathroom, Separate Shower Room, D/Glazing, C/ Heating, Integral Garage, Front & Rear Gardens. Cul-De-Sac Location.

£167,995



LONGWOOD RISE, WILLENHALL
Immaculate Three Bed Detached Property Comprises Of Spacious Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner With Integrated Oven And Hob, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom With Jacuzzi Bath, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Detached Garage And Block Paved Driveway.

£157,995



ENSBURY CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Link Detached Property Located In A Quiet Cul-De-Sac Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, C/ Heating, D/Glazing, Garage, Enclosed Garden, Driveway.

£142,995



UPLANDS AVENUE, WILLENHALL
Two/Three Bed Detached Bungalow Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Basement/ Hobby Room, Cellar, C/Heating, D/ Glazing, Detached Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden. Must View.

£139,995



OVERDALE DR. WILLENHALL
Immaculate Three Bed Semi Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Modern Kitchen/Diner, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Detached Garage, Carport And Driveway. MUST VIEW.

£134,995





SQUIRES GR, NEW INVENTION
Modern Two Bed End Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Ground Floor W.C, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Two Double Bedrooms Both With En-Suite, D/ Glazing, C/Heating And Separate Garage.

£132,995



WOODSIDE WAY, SHORT HEATH
Well Presented Extended Two Bedroom Semi Detached Property Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen Diner, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom And Detached Garage, Part D/Glazing & C/Heating. Must View!

£131,995



UPLANDS RD, PORTOBELLO
Extended Two Bedroom Family Bungalow Having Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway, Feature 26ft Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Area, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom With Shower, Garage, C/Heating, UPVC D/Glazing.

£124,995



UPLANDS GROVE, PORTOBELLO
Extended Two Bed Semi Having Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Loft Storage Room, Family Bathroom C/ Heating, UPVC D/Glazing, Detached Garage, Block Paved Driveway.

£119,995



WILLENHALL ST, DARLASTON
Modern Three Bed Semi-Detached Property Having Entrance Hall, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Ground Floor W.C, Three Bedrooms, Modern Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing & Allocated Parking.

£109,995



LIME AVE, BENTLEY
A Well Presented Three Bedroom Mid Terrace House Having Lounge, Dining Room Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility Area, Three Generous Bedrooms, Fitted Shower Room, Separate W.C, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking And Enclosed Rear Garden.

£109,995



HILL ROAD, PORTOBELLO
Well Presented Three Bedroom End Town House Situated On A Corner Plot Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating And Enclosed Rear Garden. Located Close To Local Amenities, Schools And Transport Links.

£104,995



BLOXWICH RD, LEAMORE
Spacious Two Bed Semi Having Entrance Porch, Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom With Separate Shower Cubicle, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden And Off Road Parking.

£100,000



BENTLEY WHARF, SHORT HEATH
Modern Ground Floor Apartment On An Exclusive Gated Development Having Entrance Hallway, Dining Room Open Plan Into The Breakfast Kitchen With Integrated Oven, Hob, And Washer Dryer, Lounge, Two Bedrooms, Spacious Bathroom And Terrace, D/Glazing, C/ Heating, Secure Parking, Canal Side Access.

£100,000



POOLES LANE, SHORT HEATH
A Well Presented Three Bedroom End Of Terrace Having Front Reception Room, Rear Reception Room Being Open Plan Into Modern Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Family Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, First Floor Separate W.C, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Good Sized Rear Garden and No Upward Chain.

£89,995



REDWOOD WAY, COPPICE FARM
Immaculately Presented One Bed Ground Floor Flat Situated On The Coppice Farm Estate Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Modern Fitted Bathroom With Thermostatic Mixer Shower, D/ Glazing, C/Heating And Driveway.

£92,500



SQUIRES GR, NEW INVENTION
Two Bed Modern First Floor Apartment Having Communal Entrance Hall, Private Hallway, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, Electric Heating, UPVC Double Glazing And Allocated Parking.

£89,995



TINTERN CRES, MOSSLEY
Three Bed Mid Terraced Property Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating. Ideal FTB Or BTL.

£89,995



GIPSY LANE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Mid Terraced Property Having Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing. Close To Willenhall Town Centre Giving Access To Good Local Amenities, Schools and Transport Links. Great Investment Property.

£78,995



GRENVILLE CLOSE, BENTLEY
Well Presented One Bed First Floor Flat Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Stairs To First Floor Living Accommodation, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom, D/Glazing, Thermostatic Electric Heating, Garage And A Driveway. Close To Amenities And Transport Links. Great BTL!

£54,995

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BLOXWICH
Westhall Gate
- Four Bedroom Detached
- Three Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Home Cinema/Entertainment Room
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Laundry
- Utility
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

In the Region of £399,995



Stafford Road
BLOXWICH
- Extended Five Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Laundry Room
- Shower Room
- Annex with Kitchen
- Lounge
- Garage & Parking
- Large Rear Garden

In the Region of £439,950



Lichfield Road
BLOXWICH
- Extended Four Bed Detached
- Immaculate Presentation
- Sought After Location
- Block Paved
- Driveway
- Garage
- Extensive Rear Garden
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £349,950



Field road
BLOXWICH
- Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Fully Re-Furbished
- Two Reception Rooms
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Utility Room/WC
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Garages & Workshop

In the Region of £194,000



Broadway
WALSALL
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Gardens
- Parking
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £190,000



New Forest Road
WALSALL
- Three Bedroom Detached
- Lounge
- Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- En-Suite Shower Room
- Off Road Parking
- Garage with Utility

Offers in excess of £140,000



Coppice Farm Way
WILLENHALL
- Extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Gardens
- Parking
- Double Glazing
- Gas Heating

In the Region of £140,000

NEW

The Hayes
WILLENHALL



- Two Bed Semi-Detached Bungalow
- Large Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing
- Central Heating
- Front Driveway with Off Road Parking

In the Region of £135,000



Redwood Way
WALSALL
- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- New Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- New Garage
- Off Road Parking

In the Region of £134,950



Lane Avenue
WALSALL
- Extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Re-Furbished
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Cloakroom W.C
- En-Suite Shower
- Bathroom
- Rear Gardens

In the Region of £134,950



Arrow Road
BLOXWICH
- Extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Kitchen/Diner
- Shower Room
- Extended Lounge
- Off Road Parking
- Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens

In the Region of £129,950



Cartbridge Lane
WALSALL
- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- Cloakroom W.C
- Bathroom
- Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- Gas Heating

In the Region of £127,995



Hillary Street
WALSALL
- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Double Bedrooms
- Loft Bedroom
- Garage

In the Region of £115,000



Lichfield Road
WILLENHALL
- Two Bedroom End-Terrace
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Lounge/Dining
- Room
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £114,995



Red Brook Road
WALSALL
- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Situated in a quiet Cul-de-Sac
- Kitchen
- Lounge/Dining
- Room
- Family Bathroom
- Conservatory
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

In the Region of £110,000



Dryden Road
WALSALL
- Extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Extended Kitchen/Diner
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- En-Suite Shower Room
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £105,000



Queen Elizabeth Avenue
WALSALL
- Three Bedroom Duplex Flat
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Separate W.C.
- Utility/Rear Lobby
- Roof Terrace
- Off Road Parking

Offers in excess of £90,000

Smiths Flour Mill
WALSALL



- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Open Living Area
- Fully Equipped Kitchen
- Family Bathroom with Shower
- Secure Gated Parking
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating

In the Region of £90,000



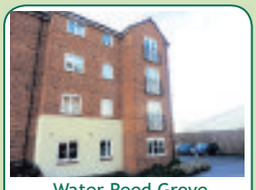
Margam Crescent
BLOXWICH
- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Breakfast Room/Dining Room
- Family Bathroom
- Loft Room Conversion
- Rear Garden
- Off Street Parking

Offers in excess of £85,000



Blakenall Lane
BLOXWICH
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Potential to Extend
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Downstairs W.C.
- Shower Room
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

In the Region of £85,000



Water Reed Grove
BLOXWICH
- Two Bedroom Third Floor Apartment
- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- En-Suite Shower
- Room
- Communal Grounds
- Allocated Parking
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating

In the Region of £84,950

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Gillity Avenue
WALSALL

- Three Bed Detached Dorma Bungalow
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Lounge/ Dining room
- En-Suite
- Garage
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Central Heating
- Double Glazing

In the Region Of £299,950



BLOXWICH
Castings Close

- Brand New Development
- Three & Four Bedroom
- Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Master Bedroom
- En-Suite
- Family Bathroom

Prices from £160,000



Stamping Way
BLOXWICH

- Four Bedroom Three Storey
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Guest W.C.
- Master Bedroom
- En-Suite
- Family Bathroom
- Detached Garage
- Off Road Parking

In the Region of £230,000



Green Lane
SHELFIELD

- Four Double Bedrooms
- Two En-Suites
- Conservatory
- Guest W.C.
- Loft Room
- Garage
- Family Bathroom
- Clay Block paved Driveway
- Close to Shelfield Acadcemy

In the Region of £229,950



Lichfield Road
BLOXWICH

- Extended Three Bedroom Detached
- Extended Kitchen
- Two Reception Rooms
- Utility
- Guest W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing

Offers in Excess of £200,000



Green Rock Lane
BLOXWICH

- Three Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen with Large Pantry
- Verandah
- Newly Fitted Bathroom
- Guest W.C.
- Large Detached Garage

In the Region of £165,000



Reedswood Lane
WALSALL

- Three Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Extensive Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking

In the Region of £159,950



Field Road
BLOXWICH

- Three Bed Semi-Detached
- Dining Room
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Utility
- Downstairs W.C.
- Master with en-suite
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

Offers in Excess of £150,000



Pattenham Close
WILLENHALL

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Gardens
- Master Bedroom
- En-Suite
- Family Bathroom
- Parking

In the Region of £149,950



Oakridge Close
WILLENHALL

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Cul-de-Sac location
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

In the Region Of £134,950

Amberwood Close
WALSALL



- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge • Kitchen
- Utility • Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Carport & Driveway
- Double Glazing
- Gas Heating

In the Region of £132,500

Coltham Road
WILLENHALL



- Three Bedroom End-Terrace
- Large Lounge
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Dining Room
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Allocated Off Road Parking

In the Region of £130,000



Harness Close
WALSALL

- Three Bedroom Link-Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage & Driveway
- NO CHAIN

Offers in excess of £130,000



Tintern Crescent
BLOXWICH

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Kitchen
- Family Shower Room
- Conservatory
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

In the Region of £97,000

Beeches Road
BLOXWICH



- Two Bedroom Semi Detached
- Lounge • Kitchen/Diner
- Utility • Family Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Large Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Corner Plot with room to extend

Offers in Excess of £95,000

REDUCED

Valley Road
BLOXWICH



- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Down Stairs W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating (Where Specified)
- Double Glazing

Offers in Excess of £90,000



Wolverhampton Road
WALSALL

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Lean To
- Double Glazing
- Gas Heating

In the Region of £90,000



Lewis Street
WALSALL

- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Bathroom
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Double Glazing
- Central Heating

Offers in Excess of £80,000



Harrison Street
BLOXWICH

- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating

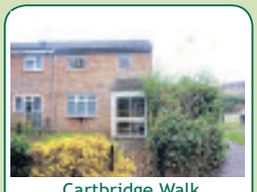
Offers in Excess of £79,950



Terret Close
WALSALL

- One Bedroom Top Floor Apartment
- Lounge/Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Allocated Gated Parking
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating

In the Region of £79,950



Cartbridge Walk
WALSALL

- Two Bedroom End-Terrace
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Gardens
- Parking
- Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £75,000

REDUCED



Kent Street
WALSALL

- Two Bedroom End-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Verandah

Offers in Excess of £70,000



Clarkes Lane
WILLENHALL

- Two Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Family Bathroom
- Communal Grounds
- Double Glazing
- Gas Heating

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EPC: E

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. Detached House
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. Driveway, Garage
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EPC: D

POPLAR AVENUE, WEDNESFIELD
. Semi-Detched House
. Three Bedrooms
. Lounge, Kitchen
. Bathroom
. GCH, UPVC DG
. Driveway
£550pcm - plus fees



EPC: F

BOUNDARY AVENUE, ROWLEY REGIS
Semi-Detched Property
Re-furbished
Three bedrooms
Lounge, Bathroom
Fitted Kitchen / Dining Room
Driveway
£530pcm - plus fees



EPC: D

LOWER FORSTER STREET, WALSALL
. Terraced House
. Two Bedrooms
. Lounge, Dining room
. Kitchen, Bathroom
. Downstairs Shower Room
. GCH & UPVC DG
£475pcm - plus fees



EPC: D

MONCRIEFFE STREET, WALSALL
. Terraced Property
. Two Bedrooms
. Lounge, Kitchen
. Dining Room
. Bathroom
. UPVC DG, GCH
£450pcm - plus fees





EPC: D

CHURCH STREET, DARLASTON
. First Floor Flat
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. Fitted Kitchen
. Lounge & Bathroom
. UPVC DG
. GCH
£325pcm - plus fees



EPC: D

FORGE ROAD, SHORT HEATH
. Semi-Detached House
. Lounge, Kitchen
. Three Bedrooms
. Bathroom
. Driveway
. Front & Rear Gardens
£450pcm - plus fees



EPC: D

WATERFRONT WAY, WALSALL
. Second Floor Flat
. Two Bedrooms
. Lounge & Kitchen
. Bathroom & DG
. Economy 7 Heating
. Allocated Parking
£450pcm - plus fees



EPC: E

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. Lounge, Kitchen
. Dining Room
. Bathroom
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New X-Trail from Nissan is inspired by popular crossovers





THE latest Nissan X-Trail ditches the Bear Grylls image and instead takes inspiration from Nissan's market-leading crossovers – Qashqai, Juke and Murano.

Has it gone soft or is it merely trying to win a popularity contest? In truth, neither. It's just a smart piece of product development reacting to a changing marketplace.

Under the bonnet, the core engine is a significantly updated dCi 130 version of the previous model's 2.0-litre diesel, optionally mated to a newly-developed Xtronic CVT gearbox. A 1.6-litre DIG-T 163PS petrol engine has also been developed for this car.

Although the X-Trail appears to have become a bit more lifestyle oriented, this is Nissan we're talking of here; manufacturers of some of the cleverest all-wheel drive systems around.

They just can't help themselves.

Yes, you can buy a front-wheel drive X-Trail and it'll probably make sense for quite a few buyers, but the four-wheel drive chassis is extremely clever.

The electronic four-wheel drive system, All Mode 4x4i, is controlled via a rotary switch on the centre console. It offers a choice between two-wheel drive, Auto mode or Lock offering permanent four-wheel drive. So far, so conventional.

The X-Trail also features Active Ride Control and Active Engine Brake. Active Ride Control monitors the road surface to detect undulations which could potentially upset the pitch of the car body and alters the damping to compensate. Active Engine Brake meanwhile, harnesses the power and controllability of the Xtronic transmission to add a degree of engine braking while cornering or when decelerating to a standstill.

Individually

Then there's Active Trace Control. By using on board sensors to monitor speed, steering angle, throttle opening and braking effort, Active Trace Control brakes wheels individually, as required, to reduce understeer and help the driver steer a safer path through bends: it is particularly effective on slippery, wet roads. Finally the X-Trail benefits from Uphill Start Support and Advance Hill Descent Control.

The interior is a good deal more spacious than before and features theatre-style seating with the option of two extra seats to make room for seven inside.

Practical touches include rear side doors which open to almost 80 degrees – far wider than normal – to allow not just easy access but also to ease the loading and unloading of a child seat. Middle row seat comfort has been improved thanks to extra knee room generated by the longer wheelbase and the front seats having more heavily sculpted seat backs.

The middle-row seats recline and slide while, where fitted, the third row folds forward to increase luggage space. Helpful touches include, for example, a large between-the-seats console box. The box itself is large enough to take an iPad or 10in tablet.

The luggage bay can be portioned into upper and lower areas in a simple single-handed move. In its top-most position, a dividing board can hold up to 10kg of luggage, or 75kg in its lower position.

This split cargo solution enables the user to store, for example, a stroller and large items below while creating a fully usable upper load surface for smaller, lighter items.

A remotely-powered tailgate eases access to the luggage area. Build quality looks much improved.

Standard

This X-Trail is available in three familiar grades: Visia, Acenta and Tekna. All trim levels feature air-conditioning, alloy wheels and six airbags, LED daytime running lights, five-inch colour combimeter display, Bluetooth with microphone, cruise control and speed limiter.

Hill start assist, follow me home lights and a luggage board system are among the features fitted as standard.

Range-topping Tekna models feature an array of technologies which further confirm Nissan's lead in the crossover market. These include LED headlamps, leather seats, electrically-adjustable driver's seat, front and rear parking sensors and 19-in alloy wheels.

In addition, Tekna models also feature Intelligent key with engine start button, forward emergency braking, lane departure warning, high beam assist and traffic sign recognition.

The Nissan X-Trail is a vehicle which has often struggled to assert itself in a market packed with talent.

The galling thing for Nissan is that on talent alone, it's often been one of the best in its class but it has lacked that bit of X-factor which translates into solid orders.

The latest model aims to bring that desirability to the X-Trail. With more space, more equipment, better build quality and a sleeker look, it's a car which instantly looks much more upmarket than before.

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Toyota ticks all the boxes with its new go anywhere off-road star

By Sharon Walters

I DO go from extreme to extreme in cars – from tiny city runabouts to luxury executive limos and vans and everything in between.

And it's great fun experiencing driving right across the board. Having a look at vehicles that fill the need (or sometimes don't) of the people they are aimed at.

And I particularly like getting behind the wheel of potential serious 4x4s – and I mean potential because let's face it the vast majority of those sold in the UK only ever see properly surfaced roads and don't get the chance to show off their skills ploughing up and down steep muddy, stoney or grassy slopes.

Or traversing water, although with the weather we have experienced in the past few months wading through floods did become the norm for so many of us.

You can get some quite small but very capable 4x4s, for example the Suzuki Jimny, medium range and the monster man. And the Toyota Land Cruiser certainly falls into the latter category. And while this mud-plugger does do very, very well off road it also holds its own on the ashphalt, unlike many of its rivals, giving a comfortable ride rather like that of a large estate car without any bouncing up and down and jarring your back.

So, if you want the option of being able to ford our swollen roads and wade axle-deep through the mud left behind when tides recede, coupled with having a 'normal' vehicle, the Land Cruiser fits the bill. It is versatile indeed, and it's latest revamp has improved on that.

There are 60 years of experience behind this Toyota and while many asked how it could be improved, the 2014 update has, with the redoubtable Land Cruiser benefitting from new styling inside and out and improvements to handling. The reworked design preserves the model's distinctive identity, while the interior changes raise quality, convenience and ease of use.

Design changes for three and five-door models have been led by distinctive new frontal treatment with deeper front bumper, heritage-inspired grille and new light clusters coupled with revised rear lamp units and introduction of new alloy wheel designs and exterior colour choices.

Inside there's a comprehensive upgrade of interior trim and the dashboard redesign includes a new control panel for on and off-road driving systems, full colour TFT multi-information display screen and Optitron meters.

The dashboard remains functional and chunky as befits a proper 4x4 but it is sophisticated in content and means of operation.

Comfortable

The second and third row seats have been revised for easier access, a much needed improvement as it was difficult for those of a less than athletic nature to board and disembark comfortable and modestly.

That good handling and ride comfort improvement are down to adjustments to standard suspension and Kinetic Dynamic Suspension and safety features have been extended with the options of a new blind spot monitor and rear cross traffic alert.

Of course in the all-important environmental area the excellent 3.0-litre turbodiesel engine has been revised to meet Euro5+ emissions standard with added advantage of no decrease in performance. This is a big vehicle and any reduction would have been a major disadvantage. Constantly having to push the engine would have been no joy.

The Toyota Land Cruiser's famed durability means that it has big resale values which help drive the overall cost of ownership down.

My recent driving experience did mainly involve everyday day-to-day getting from A to B and it was enjoyable. It doesn't feel as if you are behind the wheel of a big, ungainly vehicle.

Once I'd climbed in (literally for someone of my stature) good visibility, seat and steering wheel adjustments set, trips were easy and even parking in public car parks where spaces can be tight was a doddle made even easier by the rear view monitor. A brief foray into forest tracks also showed the Cruiser was still as willing to take on off-road challenges.

The Land Cruiser enjoys a global reputation as an ultimate go-anywhere vehicle, a status built on its formidable performance in the world's toughest environments over more than 60 years.

Throughout that time, Land Cruiser has been progressively developed to harness new technologies to extend its capabilities, both on-road and off, and to increase in customer appeal in terms of styling, equipment, comfort and practicality.

And that's just what's been done for 2014.

There's a three model range with prices starting at £34,995 for the Active, £47,495 for the Icon and £52,495 for the Invincible.

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63 Mokka 1.7 CDTi Exclusiv AUTO, Bluetooth, Parking Sensors, Alloys, 700 miles, Silver **£17499**

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62 Antara 2.2 Diesel Exclusiv 4x4, half leather, heated seats, 18" alloys, 11700 miles, Grey **£15999**
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Skoda scores at awards

By David Banner

ŠKODA UK scooped two prestigious accolades at this year's Fleet News Awards which took place at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London.

The 'Oscars' of the fleet calendar, the annual event recognises the best-performing businesses and individuals within the sector during the last 12 months.

The panel of judges, made up of members of the Fleet News editorial team as well as industry experts, voted the ŠKODA Octavia Estate the 'Best Estate Car' for its combination of affordability and space, in addition to its range of efficient power plants. The Superb Estate, a winner of the category for the last two years, once again came highly-acclaimed in the same class.

In what proved to be a busy night for the vehicle manufacturer, the ŠKODA Yeti was also named 'Best Crossover', a model praised by the panel for quality, versatility, low rate of depreciation, and offering a very appealing and solid proposition to fleet operators.

Judge Stephen Briers, editor of Fleet News said: "The Octavia Estate has the best balance of space versus cost in this category.

"An excellent choice of efficient engines combined with strong driver appeal, makes it an ideal option as a stylish and flexible workhorse.





'ŠKODA Yeti was named Best Crossover, a model praised for quality, versatility, low rate of depreciation'

"ŠKODA's second winner, Yeti, is a good all-rounder, with excellent running costs and the flexibility offered by on-road or (genuine) off-road options.

"The 2013 facelift made an already great car even better. Excellent build quality and very strong used values add to the perfect package."

Patrick McGillycuddy, head of fleet for ŠKODA UK said: "We are extremely proud to have received these two prestigious industry awards for the ŠKODA Octavia Estate and the Yeti crossover.

"Providing an exceptional level of practicality and value for money, as well as highly competitive CO2 emissions, both models have consistently proved popular amongst company car drivers."

He added: "These accolades are a great achievement and further re-inforce a very encouraging first quarter for ŠKODA fleet.

"It is also testiment to the team's continued commitment to building strong relationships with our customers and offering them expert advice about the model range."



Personal contract purchase representative example:
V40 Hatchback T2 R-Design 5 door

Cash price of vehicle	Customer deposit	Manufacturer deposit contribution	Total amount of credit	Total charge for credit	42 monthly payments	Duration in months	One final payment (GFV)	Fixed rate of interest (per annum)	Representative APR	Total amount payable	Mileage per annum	Excess mileage charge
£19,487.75	£1,999.00	£500.00	£16,988.75	£2,816.31	£228.93	43	£10,190.00	3.04%	5.9%	£22,304.06	8,000	14.9p per mile

Personal contract purchase representative example:
V40 Diesel Hatchback D2 R-Design 5 door

Cash price of vehicle	Customer deposit	Manufacturer deposit contribution	Total amount of credit	Total charge for credit	42 monthly payments	Duration in months	One final payment (GFV)	Fixed rate of interest (per annum)	Representative APR	Total amount payable	Mileage per annum	Excess mileage charge
£21,075.70	£1,999.00	£500.00	£18,576.70	£3,131.80	£239.00	43	£11,670.50	3.04%	5.9%	£24,207.50	8,000	14.9p per mile

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Official fuel consumption for the All-New Volvo V40 in mpg (l/100km): Urban 25.0 (11.3) - 74.3 (3.8), Extra Urban 47.1 (6.0) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined 35.8 (7.9) - 83.1 (3.4). CO_2 Emissions 185 - 88g/km. MPG figures are obtained from laboratory testing and intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect real driving results.
Offer applies to stock cars only. Finance subject to status. At Brindley Volvo on vehicles registered by 30st June 2014. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are three options: (i) pay the GFV (Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment) to own the vehicle; (ii) part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available; or (iii) return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. Terms and conditions apply, 18s or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Volvo Car Credit RH1 1SR. Retail offer only. Excludes fleet operators and business users. See volvocars.co.uk for full terms and conditions.

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Drivetime

Ex-army couple regain freedom



Gwen and Brian Harbourne were largely confined to barracks until getting behind the wheel of a specially adapted car that has given them leave.

A disabled ex-nurse and army Captain, they can now visit veteran friends thanks to a unique wheelchair friendly car built by West Midlands firm Sirus Automotive.

This couple have led highly active lives since meeting in 1951 when Gwen, now 78, was 15. She was already involved in pre-nurse training whilst Brian, now 81, was attending grammar school. Gwen went on to qualify as a nurse and married Brian in 1956. That same year Brian joined The Royal Army Pay Corps as a National Serviceman.

They lived and worked in military bases including Germany, which is where they met their longstanding friends Ken and Betty. Gwen and Brian went on to have three children, sadly losing two in their early years. Despite these setbacks they have remained strong and supportive of each other. Their most recent challenge has been Gwen's loss of independence that has resulted in her need to use a powered wheelchair to remain mobile. This meant travelling in a car and meeting up with their ex-service friends, was impossible until they discovered a Sirus 'Switch' wheelchair accessible car.

Gwen explains: "Having the ability to travel in a car, or drive myself, without tackling awkward transfers out of my electric wheelchair was a breakthrough to us. We started researching vehicle convertors that were Motability approved and came across Sirus. We were very impressed with their Switch car as it combined really easy access with the ability to travel upfront either as a passenger or driver. This meant I could drive safely from my chair, or my husband could do the "honours" whilst I enjoyed the scenery. Without the comfort and practicality of this car, our lifestyle and happiness would have been seriously affected."

The specially converted, wheelchair friendly Sirus car that Gwen and Brian own is based on a Fiat Qubo. It is one of the most innovative conversions to date and allows wheelchair users to travel upfront either as driver or passenger. Most wheelchair users who have to travel in the rear of a vehicle can feel isolated and experience travel sickness whereas the Sirus 'Switch' provides safe securement in either of the two front seating positions. The ability to swap between passenger and driver using a simple floor-mounted locking mechanism, also means time-consuming restraint belts are not needed, normal seat belts can be used.

Gwen said: "Over and above spending time with our friends, my Sirus car has also allowed me to independently continue with my 'University of the Third Age' (U3A) commitments.

Simon Pearson, Sirus Automotive joint managing director said: "Gwen and Brian are a delightful couple and we are so proud to have helped them retain independence and happiness. The Switch wheelchair accessible car they own is proving so popular with other couples thanks to its affordability and flexibility. Hearing that they can now visit friends once more, thanks to our vehicle, is a typical example of why we do what we do here at Sirus. We are very proud of our Midlands manufacturing heritage and will always be passionately committed to delivering access for all."

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Call Paul on 01543 251743.

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WANTED FOR CASH three piece suites, up to £100 paid Call 01785 815925.

items for sale

CANNOCK EXCHANGE
We buy & sell quality used goods: Car audio, Air Rifles, TVs & Laptops, Bikes, Gold, Guitars & Amps, Group/Disco Gear etc. Try us! No Furniture.
186 Stafford Rd, Cannock, WS11 4AH
Open Tues to Sat 10am-6pm
01543 570990 Closed Sun & Mon

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CHEAP BRICKS £12 per 100 inc VAT, also red hand made brick, £28.90 per 100 inc VAT. Prices to clear. Ranton Building Supplies Limited, Cannock 01543 276006.

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A LANDSCAPING & GARDEN SERVICE
Fencing supplied & fitted.
Jungles cleared & restored.
Garden tidy-ups. New lawns laid.
Paving, Hedge Cutting & Tree Surgery. Free estimates.
01902 683607 or 07939 634708

A AND B CULTIVATED TURF supplied or laying service £1.30 per roll 01922 866770 / 07787 813162

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For quality fences fitted at affordable prices call:
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on
01922 868677
or
07967 234441

PANELDIP Fence panels dip treated on site. Call John and book it in: 07957886034

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pc's, laptops & accessories

CLIENT COMPUTERS



Certified technician & Microsoft partner.
Repair & maintain laptops and PCs. In West Midlands. Virus removal, broken screens, wifi. Windows problems etc.
Home visits or bring to me.
Long established.
Laptops from £160 & PCs available.
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Free Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts & TV setups.
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specialists at your service

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Amanda for Blinds & Curtains

Vertical Blind Deals
From 7 for £179
MEASURED & FITTED!!!
GREAT FABRICS IN CREAM OR WHITE.
GREAT OFFERS ON.... WOOD VENETIANS, VENETIANS, ROLLER & ROMAN
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JP Maintenance
Over 20 years experience in bathroom & kitchen installations.
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AA DIGITAL AERIALS
1 aerial into 2 rooms
£85
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All work guaranteed
SAME DAY SERVICE
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Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
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All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
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Recession Prices. Unbeatable Value.
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carpentry & joinery

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- Kitchen and Fitted Wardrobe Specialist
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- Windows and Staircases
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www.collinscarpentryandjoinery.co.uk
0121 531 0264 / 07903 234 137

carpet cleaning

CleanDry Services
Carpets Cleaned
£30 per room
Book Now!
Call Joe or Marilyn on 07513 062571.

carpet fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598/07941 619694.

CARPETS FITTED from £25. Wet rooms, laminates, all aspects of flooring undertaken. Call: 07870 563266 or 01902 276345.

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DO YOU NEED A CLEANER? Reliable & trustworthy. Call Lorna on: 07973 520327. + Carpet Cleaning.

double glazing

UPVC BACK DOORS from £299, front doors from £389 fitted. Windows/Fascia's, 01922 442720.

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D J Gas
Servicing and installtion of boilers, cooker and fires.
Landlord Certs
Call Dan 07818 047772

GAS SERVICES
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- Cookers
- Fires
- Gas Checks
- Landlord Certificates
- Gas Leaks Traced

Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

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01902 722447

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Any size
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and professional service
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07891 119150,
01902 688575

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✓Reliable service ✓OAP Discounts
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For all your property maintenance needs.
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- AFFORDABLE SKIPS
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- LOCAL COMPANY
- RELIABLE AND FRIENDLY SERVICE

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Competitive Prices
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Careful Firm
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A2B REMOVALS Cheap and reliable removal service. Insured. 07817 842980 or 01902 744829.

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ANDY VANS House removals and clearances. Will also collect scrap items. For a cheap, local quote call Andy on 07855 865062.

CALL DEAN! Business/Domestic, Deliveries/Relocation/full house 1 item.07429 453209 / 01902 830870 01384 940260 / 01922 263460.

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DJ REMOVALS house or one item. Affordable rates, reliable. Call: 01902 652346 or 07912 980177.

MAN & VAN All day hire, collection or delivery. any size vehicle to suit. Good rates available. Insured. Contact: 07780 460783.

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Approved

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Fabric samples for you to choose in the comfort of your home.
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01902 424296

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window cleaning

WINDOW CLEANER Monthly, great prices. PVC fames washed every time. 0121 5025197/07419 313048

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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pets corner

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All neutered, innoculated and chipped.
Call Greyhound Trust 01922 412212 or www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

CAARS ANIMAL RESCUE
Registered Charity
Dogs, cats, puppies & kittens accepted for rehoming.
Call: 01922 476208.
Red Lane, Off Crab Lane Essington, WV11 2DZ.
OPEN MONDAY TO SUNDAY 9am

CHIHUAHUA PUPPIES. Full pedigree, short haired, smooth coat. With papers. 3 boys, 1 bitch. £600. Telephone 07961 255079.

HUSKY PUPPIES 8 weeks old, weaned and wormed, now ready, 2 males, 1 female, KC applied, assured breeder, £550 each. 07923 134394.

POODLE DOG SPECIALIST clipping and grooming. Contact: 01543 876432/07801 659239

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

businesses for sale

WANT TO SELL Your Business? Call John Southern at County Business Sales 01902 766724.

commercial premises sale / let

ESSINGTON workshop / storage unit to let , can do part let or full. Price to be agreed. Contact: 07780 460783.

6 Property

properties wanted

WE GUARANTEE TO BUY YOUR HOUSE IN 3 DAYS!
24 HOUR FREEPHONE:
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accommodation to let

No Deposit
Move In Today
Studios from £90pw*
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Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

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I Will rent your property from you for 5 - 10 years. GUARANTEED RENT,
I Will also look after the maintenance of the property.
Interested... Call Arsh on 07967 016425

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ONE AND THREE BED FLATS, Tipton. DSS considered. 07961 301577 or 07906 878175.

ONE BED FLAT Willenhall Town Centre. £90 p/w. Deposit required. No texts. 07976 781003.

TWO BED Apartment, Squires Lock, Willenhall, parking. £525pcm. 07800 876199.

TWO BEDROOM semi detached Bungalow with CH and DG, new curtains and carpets throughout. Burntwood area. £575pcm. 01543 673068 or 07879 021110.

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12 SNOWDON ROAD
3 bed (1 en-suite), living/dining room, kitchen, utility, bathroom, study, gardens, drive, & garage in Burnhill Green nr Pattingham.
To be let by tender - offers in excess of 900pcm
Knight Frank - 0117 945 2630

overseas property

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It's as simple as that, you will get the best deal on your home from FIRST GENERAL HOMES

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BENTLEY, WALSALL

3 bedroom semi detached house. Fully central heated and double glazing. Off road parking for 2 cars. Conservatory and large rear garden. Must be seen.

£117,500 ono.
07746 109933.

7 Jobs

courses

ADR with 28 Hours Driver CPC £460 fully inc. Available 7days. SDH Training 01902 455677

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DSA QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS
HGV C+E (ARTIC) & C (RIGID)
7.5T (C1) SMALL LORRY
CAR & TRAILER (B+E)
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INITIAL CPC TRAINING & ADR
CPC Periodic Training for PCV & LGV from 7hr blocks - Full 35hrs
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CPC TRAINING all courses inc adr & tanks, cpc for hgv & pcv 0121 552 6806 or 07891 089506.

5th Wheel Training Ltd Driving Training Personnel

DCPC
By popular demand, Crazy Discount Month is back £42 per 7 hour course, £210 for 35 hours, offer ends 31 April 2014
Don't miss out sign up now for this astonishing offer as places will fill quickly.
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No previous experience or qualifications required

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TRADE PLATE EXECUTIVE required for delivering mainly new cars. Would suite mature person. Part/full time. Must be reliable, email patkinslogistics@gmail.com for more information

7.5 TON DRIVER Aldridge. 37.5 hours per week Monday to Friday. £7 per hour. Full driving licence up to 7.5 ton. CPC required. National multi drops.
Please send CV to ELC (UK) Limited, Redhouse Industrial Estate, Middlemore Lane West, Aldridge, Walsall WS9 8EA. Email emily@elcuk.com Telephone 01922 459004.

8 WHEEL TIPPER Driver wanted. Must have Landfill tipping experience.
Brownhills 07836 568903

engineering

FABRICATOR / WELDER required for busy Structural Steelwork Fabrication company. Applicant must have previous experience and be able to work to CAD Fabrication drawings. Good rate of pay and overtime available.
Apply Traditional Structures Ltd 01922 414172 (Equal Opps Emp).

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nursing & carers

STAFF NURSE full time shifts at Walsall Nursing Home. For an application form or informal chat telephone 01922 712610.

part time - general

NEED AN EXTRA INCOME? £200-£2,000 pm - 0121 314 9652. www.bericher.info

sales & marketing

EXPERIENCED FLOORING manager/estimator required to cover our outlets in Walsall, Willenhall & Cannock. Salary Negotiable, good prospects for the right applicant. Email CV to helen@walsallcarpets.co.uk

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

JAGUAR X-TYPE, 2001, red, 68,000 miles, MoT till September, 2.5, lovely clean car, excellent condition, £1,500 ono. 07729 259502.

MERCEDES C220CDI, 54 reg, fsh, tax July, MoT September, 92,000 miles, £4,250 ono.
Telephone 07920 156165.

MITSUBISHI PAJERO 2.8 turbo, 2 door, long tax / MoT, low mileage, ace condition, rare manual, £1,600. 07757 290963.

PEUGEOT 206 COUPE Convertible, 2001, 66,700 miles, rare met green, long MoT, tax, many features, very good condition, £1,695 ono. 07852 281282.

RANGE ROVER VOGUE 54 plate. Blue metallic. Full sand leather interior. 109,701 miles. Full 12 months MoT.Good condition. No expense spared.
£9,000.
No offers. 01543 672473.



SUZUKI SPLASH

2013, 1,022 miles, black, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, one owner, pas, tax, CD.

£6,750 ono.
07841 127254.



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2013, 1,136 miles, silver, family bereavement forces sale, 11 months tax, recent service, 4 door, 5 seats, air con, alloy wheels.

£8,750 ono.
01922 701224.

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01902 490555 / 07553 358610
DALE STREET, BILSTON, WV14 7JY

DAEWOO LANOS 5 door hatch back, V reg, green, Taxed July 14, 76K, Genuine reason for sale. £350 ono. 07757 080683.

DAEWOO MATIZ 1 litre, 04 reg, full MoT, low miles, PAS, E/W, S/H, drives superb, £750.
Phone 07855 721501.

FIAT PUNTO 1.2 3Dr, 51 Reg, metallic blue, 58,000 miles, with service history, MoT, excellent condition, only £895. 07804 544017.

FORD FIESTA ZETEC 2000, AC, airbag, EW, 44,000 miles, tax, MoT. £500 ono. 01922 746724.

FORD MONDEO, 03 reg, 2 litre, Zetec, silver, 50k miles, 2 owners, Taxed till Oct, MoT Aug. £1,200. o.n.o. Call 01922 411098.

FORD SIERRA Sapphire LX, 1991, petrol, 4 door, 170,000 miles, MoT End April, good runner, used daily. £350. 01922 401837.

PEUGEOT 307 GLX, HDi TD, 2001, tax, MoT, 110,747 miles, 5-dr, electrics, CD, PAS, good condition, £850 ono. 07941 112657.

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**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984-SECTION 14(1)(A)
THE A5 TRUNK ROAD (NORTON CANES, STAFFORDSHIRE)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2014**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport intends to make an Order on the A5 Trunk Road in the County of Staffordshire, to allow carriageway resurfacing works to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to-

1. close the eastbound and westbound carriageways of the A5 between its junction with the B4154 Lime Lane/Walsall Road roundabout and the A452 Chester Road North roundabout (Rising Sun Island);
2. close the layby situated adjacent to the eastbound carriageway of the A5 450 metres west of Rising Sun Island; and
3. prohibit vehicles from entering or leaving the lengths of A5 described in 1. above at its junction with the any side road.

The work will be carried out overnight between 20:00 hours and 06:00 hours and is expected to start on Tuesday 6 May 2014 and continue for four nights. The layby will be closed from 00:01 hours on 6 May and remain closed for 24 hours for the duration of the works. The Order will come into force on Tuesday 29 April 2014.

Vehicles being used by the emergency services or used in connection with the works will be exempt from the closures and prohibitions. Diversion routes via the A5195 and A460 and vice versa will be signed. Access to property will be maintained at all times.

For further information, please contact Richard Gulliver on 0121 678 8339.

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984-SECTION 14(1)(A) AND THE MOTORWAYS TRAFFIC (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 1982 - REGULATION 16(2)
THE M6 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 10 TO JUNCTION 9, WALSALL)
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTION AND PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2014**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport intends to make an Order on the M6 Motorway in the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to allow bridge maintenance work to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to –

1. impose a –
   a. 50 miles per hour speed restriction on the southbound carriageway of the M6 from a point 40 metres north of its junction with the link road leading from the eastbound carriageway of the M54, to a point 500 metres north of the Bentley Lane overbridge;
   b. 50 miles per hour speed restriction on the eastbound carriageway of the M54 from a point 300 metres north of the centreline of the Hobnock Road overbridge, to its junction with the southbound carriageway of the M6
   c. 40 miles per hour speed restriction on the southbound carriageway of the M6, from a point 500 metres north of the centreline of the Bentley Lane overbridge, to a point 135 metres south of the centreline of the Darlaston Road underbridge;
   d. 40 miles per hour speed restriction on the slip roads leading from and to the southbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 10;
2. prohibit vehicles with an overall width exceeding 2 metres from entering or proceeding in lane 3 of the southbound carriageway of the M6 from a point 100 metres north of the centreline of the southern overbridge at Junction 10, to a point 100 metres south of the centreline of the Darlaston Road underbridge;
3. Close at different times –
   (a) the southbound carriageway of the M6 from its junction with the exit slip road at Junction 10, to its junction with the entry slip road at Junction 9;
   (b) the slip road leading from the southbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 10;
   (c) the slip road leading to the southbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 10;
   (d) the slip road leading from the southbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 9; and
   (e) various lanes of the southbound carriageway of the M6 from a point 55 metres south of the centreline of the northern overbridge at Junction 10, to a point 400 metres south of the centreline of the Walsall Canal underbridge and allow traffic to use the hardshoulder;
   (f) close any emergency refuge area situated adjacent to the lengths of road described in 3. (a) above.

The speed and width restrictions and the closure of the emergency refuge area will be in operation 24 hours a day for the duration of the works period. The closures described above in 3. (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) will be carried out in phases. Work is expected to start on Monday 28 April 2014 and continue for approximately 9 weeks. The Order will come into force on Friday 25 April 2014.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes will be exempt from the speed restrictions, prohibition and closures. Vehicles being used for special forces purposes will be exempt from the speed restrictions, and vehicles being used in connection with the works or by a traffic officer will be exempt from the prohibition and closures. A diversion route via M6 Junction 10, A454, A4148, A34 and M6 Junction 7 will be signed.

For further information, please contact Colin Jackson on 0121 687 8620.

Paul Siddall, a Higher Executive Officer in the Highways Agency.

Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning

Representations can be made online, email: planningservices@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG.

Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED)
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
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World of football is returning to Banks's

WALSALL Football Club are "delighted and proud" after it was confirmed international football is heading back to the Banks's Stadium.

The Saddlers' home has been confirmed as one of the venues for next month's UEFA under-19 Championship qualifying round – which features England, Scotland, Montenegro and Ukraine.

Three games will take place at the Banks's in the space of five days – kicking-off when England face Montenegro on May 24.

Montenegro then face Ukraine two days later, before taking on Scotland on May 29. Burton Albion's Pirelli Stadium is the other venue for the tournament.

The Banks's last hosted an international fixture when England's Under-21s thrashed Sweden 4-0 last February.

A statement read: "We are both proud and delighted that the FA have selected Banks's Stadium as a venue."

Two years ago players such as Saido Berahino and Ross Barkley were playing for the U-19s. Group winners will progress to the finals, which act as a qualification mechanism for the next FIFA U20 World Cup, taking place in New Zealand in June 2015.

Good show for Rod just doesn't happen



Rod Dickson played his 300th game

Barkers Butts 27 Walsall 20

WALSALL'S end of season slump in form continued as they lost their third successive league game.

It was another performance that had several promising aspects with the team keen to mark Rod Dickson's 300th appearance in a suitable fashion. Unfortunately, the team struggled to improve on recent displays .

The Coventry team led 10-0 in as many minutes. Wingers Palmer and Barber were put clear from 60 metres as a result of Walsall spilling possession. Walsall continued to push forward at every opportunity and were rewarded by a try for Crowhurst.

The young centre collecting a well-placed kick by fly half Wood. Weston put over the conversion and added a penalty just before half time. But the hosts had already increased their lead by then, as Palmer's 70 metre kick and chase resulted in another touchdown.

The visitors made a good start to the second half. An effective forward drive and some good passing put Wootton over near the corner flag. Indeed, the team were beginning to monopolise possession and were putting together several promising attacks. But, once again, the decision making was questionable and passes were not accurate.

Barkers collected one loose ball with the 60 metre counter attack resulting in Tidsley scoring. The centre then added another try in the closing minutes which Knight converted. Walsall, with 10 minutes left, gave two young students a chance to experience league rugby. Dave Mott and Matt James acquitted themselves well during the final stages of the game. Winger Richard Fearnhead secured a losing bonus point for his team as he finished off well to get the final score of the game.

Walsall's play their final league game this Saturday when, relegation threatened, Balsall & Berkswell visit Delves Road.Walsall United lost 26-20 to a strong Burton outfit. They led 13-3 at half time after Connor Fletcher scored a try and Rob Angell added the conversion and kicked two penalties. The Third XV league match against Handsworth seconds ended 12 -12. Phil Stanley and Sam Wright scored the tries with Kevin Pitt kicking a conversion.

Walsall Colts lost 15 -0 at Hereford. The team put up a battling performance and were always threatening to cause an upset against the unbeaten league leaders.

Rugby

Stafford stay on the rails for win

THE A team of Stafford Road Bowling Club in Bloxwich hosted British Rail on Saturday. SRB knew this was going to be close game after just beating BR to the title last season.

H.Scott was the first player to come off the green with a convincing 21-6 win. Horace Parks(21-13) and Peter Bellanti (21-9) bowled well to give Stafford Road winners in the middle as Trevor Kemp bowled tightly to come off winning 21-16.

Brian Arnold made it five out of 10 winners with a 21-6 victory. Stafford Road A won their first match of the season 186-155. Stafford Road A travel to British Rail on Saturday for the return fixture.

The B Team were away at Breakaway. Players struggled to adjust their weight and to keep the bowls on the green. However, Colin Bickley adjusted well to the weight winning 21-15, Brian Smith and Gary Purchase both had very close games but came out on top 21-20 and Alan Morton (21-18) and Chris Ward (21-18) both won to make it 5 out of 10 winners for Stafford Road.

Unfortunately SRB lost by 37 points (186-159) but the Captain is not to disappointed.

One goal lifeline for Wood's ambitions

Kirby Muxloe 0 Walsall Wood 1

WOOD kept alive their chance of finishing in the top six with a last minute goal from substitute Dave Carns.

A man of the match performance by Wood keeper Raajan Gill had kept them in the game until the deadlock was broken in the dying seconds, to move them back up to ninth.

The game started with a bang, the ball was touched to Michael Reeve from the kick off and he raced down the right, made it into the Wood box, but under pressure fired wide.

On seven minutes a long clearance by Nathan McIntosh found Brett Darby on the left edge of the Wood box, he drifted across the face of the box but fired well wide. A minute later from a right wing corner Sam Wilson powered in a header, Wood keeper Raajan Gill somehow keeping the ball out, Corey Currithers completed the clearance.

Wood's first goal attempt came on 11 minutes, Harry Harris winning the ball in the centre and finding Andre Gonzales wide right, his ball inside was hit first time by Joey Butlin but was blocked by Elliott Pacey.

Danny Rock crossed from wide on the left, the ball was only half cleared to Jamie Hawkins who from 25 yards hit a first time effort whistling inches wide. Four minutes later a crossfield ball from Harris wide right was hit first time wide by Rock.

Three minutes later Hawkins won a header in the centre and found Max Black, he raced for goal but his diagonal ball across the box was inches ahead of Currithers.

With 26 minutes gone and a neat interplay wide left by Hawkins and Currithers saw the ball played inside for Butlin to fire just wide.

On 32 minutes a right wing free kick was delivered to the far post, Gill just touching the ball away from Reeve with Black calmly completing the clearance.

Wood carved open the home defence on 36 minutes when Rock found Currithers from a left wing free kick. He cut inside and set up Butlin whose rising drive was well held by keeper Elliott Shilliam.

The ball was played straight to the other end, Darby racing onto a ball in the centre of the box, Gill making a stunning save to keep the score level.

The last action of the half came on 42 minutes, Butlin going through three tackles as he powered along the byeline from the left before being crowded out and he could get a shot away.

Stuart Verrall replaced the injured Shilliam in the home goal at the break, he was called into action after just five minutes, a central free kick fell to Harris, his first time effort saved by Verrall with his feet. A minute from the end Butlin fired in a free kick from wide on the right, David Carns (only on the field 2 minutes) forced the ball home, to give Wood 3 very lucky points.

Football

Paul's ability to make a splash is outstanding



Paul Bates at The Warwickshire County Swimming Championships collecting his award from The President of

PERRY Beeches Sutton Swim Squad Masters and Open Water swimmer Paul Bates from Walsall, has been chosen as The Warwickshire County Swimming Associations outstanding swimmer of the year.

Bates was presented with the B.H Hardridge Trophy at the recent Warwickshire County Swimming Championships at Coventry's international pool.

The Hardridge trophy, now in its 50th year, is awarded to the most outstanding swimmer of the year in Warwickshire, past winners have been Olympic and Para Olympic swimmers including Eleanor Simmonds.

Bates from Walsall is the first open water swimmer to receive the honour.

His swims in 2013 took him all over England and to France. He has won championships in both disciplines of the sport, from the warmth of a swimming pool, to the cold chilly waters found and in lakes, rivers and seas. Some of the highlights were swimming two of the Lake District's most famous stretches of water Windermere (10.5 miles) and Coniston Water (5.5miles).

Another was to join 800 fellow swimmers in one of the world's best open water swims along the Henley rowing regatta course starting at 4.30am where he was runner-up.

Bates said his two stand out swims of year were both charity events, the first being the two Swim4life and 24 miles in 24 hours in April for Help For Heroes.

League is the priority for The Pics

RUSHALL boss Neil Kitching saysOlympic face a "massive" month but their main aim remains the league.

They host Norton United in the semi-final of the Staffordshire Senior Cup tonight – just 48 hours before going to Walsall Wood for a Walsall Senior Cup last-four clash.

But after closing the gap on the Northern League Premier Division play-off pack to just five points – and having a game in hand – Kitching will prioritise the league.

"It is a massive month," he said.

"It's all to play for. We have to prioritise and have to throw everything into the league games.

"We want to get to both finals but we might hold back some players with Saturday in mind."

Dele Adebola will play after returning from suspension in the weekend 3-1 win at Worksop.

Prince get crowned in extra time

LICHFIELD & Walsall District Football League

Terry Smith Cup - Final

Prince of Wales 2 Pelsall Villa FC 1 (aet).

Premier

Burntwood Albion 3 Erdington Star 0

League One

AC Lions 1 Burntwood Star 3; Longhorn FC 4 Pelsall Villa Colts 2; Cannock Wood 3 B'hills Comm 0

League Two

Trident FC 2 Green Rock Tavern 0

League Three

Walsall Phoenix 1 Hussey Arms 1

League Four

Dosthill Rangers 2 Wych Elm FC 4; Bowman FC 0 Eximius Warriors 3

League Trophy Group B

Alma FC 2 Swan FC 1

League Trophy - Group D

Shelfield FC 4 Trent Valley Rovers 1; Turnpike FC 4 Boney Hay FC 5

Jock Corrigan Cup

Brereton Town 3 Longdon Chet 1.

Helpers call at cricket club

RUSHALL Cricket Club holding its CricketForce 2014 day this Saturday and is looking for all the help it can get.

The club will be getting theirCarter Park ground ready for the start of the 2014 season as the warm weather sees the football season give way to the time for cricket .

Rushall is looking for anyone who has some spare time to offer their assistance with either manpower or with providing materials..

For more information about what's going on at the club and how you can help then you can follow Rushall on twitter @rushallcricket.

Stourport prove too swift for tired Wood

Walsall Wood 1 Stourport Swifts.2

SWIFTS gained revenge for their early season defeat by Wood in late September but they didn't have too much to beat as Wood playing their fifth game in 11 days turned in a lacklustre, tired-looking performance, only waking up in the last 15 minutes.

Stourport had started the better, but it was the Wood who had the first attempt on goal after 10 minutes. Corey Currithers had won a left wing corner, the ball was delivered into the right of the box and Anthony Juxon got in an acrobatic, overhead effort that was stopped by keeper Sam Hawker.

The game came briefly to life in the 23rd minute, Calvin Dinsley intercepted a terrible pass and ran at the defence, he played a neat one-two with John Griffin to his right, but fired the return well wide. It was repeated a minute later, Dinsley attacking at pace, a precision 1-2 with Griffin and the return hit first time skimmed the bar. On 30 minutes a ball out of defence was collected in his stride by Ashley Parsons-Smith who raced clear but fired well over. The last action of a terrible first half came after 41 minutes, Dinsley made space on the right for a cross that was hit on the volley by Parsons-Smith, Wood keeper Raajan Gill making a superb full length save low to his left. From the corner Jamie Willetts saw his goalbound header cleared off the line by Andre Gonzales.

The first chance of the second half came after just 48 minutes, Dinsley again getting clear on the right before finding Parsons-Smith on the right edge of the box, his howitzer of a shot bravely blocked by Danny Rock. Two minutes later Jamie Willetts was allowed to run 50 yards unchallenged but his effort was well wide.

Wood briefly came to life, winning a left wing free kick on 57 minutes, Harry Harris delivered the ball to the far post and skipper Lee Stretton put a powerful header just over..

On 64 Parsons-Smith cut in from the right and his rising drive was well held by Gill. Three minutes later Griffin crossed from the left, Jamie Hyde got in a header that was taken comfortably by Gill. Swifts deservedly went ahead on 70 minutes, Griffin in from the right to play a 1-2 with Dinsley before hitting a first time effort that was going wide but took a touch off a defender and beat the outstretched right hand of the diving Gill. It got worse for Wood five minutes later, Jordan Jones attacking down the right, cutting inside and scoring with a delightful chip over the exposed Gill. Two minutes later a lovely flowing move left of centre saw Gill race from his line to kick the ball clear to deny Griffin.

On 85 minutes Gonzales ran from halfway, lost the ball in a tackle but won it back, on the right of the box, he then went outside his marker before turning cleverly back inside and hitting a ball from the right edge of the box that eluded everyone and nestled in the far corner.

A long ball forward was headed down by Shawn Boothe into the path of Joey Butlin his rising drive high went wide. Wood almost snatched a point in the 89th minute, Boothe arrowed a rising drive but, keeper Hawker made a brilliant full length save.

A comfortable win for Khalsa

Bilston Town 0
Sporting Khalsa 4

KHALSA short trip to Bilston Town ended with a comfortable victory with Liam Hughes scoring a brace in each half. Khalsa opened brightly and Liam Hughes scored within two minutes from a free-kick.

Three minutes later Khalsa went two goals up when Hughes calmly slotted the ball past the keeper. As, the game progressed Bilston started to get more into it. In the second half, Hughes scored his hat-trick from a Dan Blackwell cross and 10 minutes later a rebound fell to him and he slotted the ball home.

SPORT

Lifeline goal
Single score saves Wood's ambitions
Page 39

Make a splash
Veteran swimmer is handed honour
Page 39



Sports Desk 01902 319531 email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Mugisha the man for Pics victory

Worksop Town 1
Rushall Olympic 3

RUSHALL had Stan Mugisha mainly to thank for this excellent win as he produced two stunning goals, but it was a hard working team effort overall.

Mugisha gave Rushall the lead on 11 minutes when he won the ball in midfield, beat Muldoon and fired a right foot shot into the net.

Two minutes after the break, Rushall found themselves with a two goal cushion when a misdirected header by defender Phil Roe from a Mugisha cross landed in the path of Dance, who volleyed it home.

Worksop made a substitution on 54 minutes and it proved inspired as Jamie Jackson came on and set up Leon Mettam two minutes later for him to rifle the ball home.

On the hour Rushall were reduced to10 men when Carl Palmer was sent off for apparently elbowing Shane ClarkeBut the visitors rode that storm and it was Mugisha again on 71 minutes when Jamie Spencer slipped the ball inside the defence and Mugisha curled a lovely shot past Stewart.

Worksop could have got a goal back when Jackson found Tom Denton whose header beat Gemmell, but Gavin Caines was there to head off the line.

Gethin heads back to ring

WALSALL'S British lightweight champion Martin Gethin returns to the ring when he takes on Derry Mathews next month.

The pair will clash for the vacant WBA intercontinental lightweight crown in Mathews' home-town of Liverpool on May 10.

After losing to Panama's Ammeth Diaz in an IBF world title eliminator last May, the fight represents a chance for Gethin to get back on track.

But he knows Mathews, himself a former British and Commonwealth champion, will not be an easy opponent. "This is a big fight for me," explained Gethin, who takes on Mathews at Liverpool Olympia. "I came within touching last time against Diaz who is world class.

"I belong in world class and Mathews is standing in my way."

We have to win last games warns Lalkovic

Football

STRIKER Milan Lalkovic warns Walsall must now win all of their remaining five games to stand any chance of making the play-offs.

Saturday's 1-0 defeat at Port Vale means the Saddlers remain five points adrift of the top six, while they also slipped down to 10th in the League One table.

And Lalkovic, who came on as a second half substitute in the defeat at Vale Park, conceded their hopes of closing the gap are hanging by a thread.

"Now we have to win every game," he said. "It's not a case of if – we have to win every game and what happens, happens.

"But we have to win all five games to stand any chance. We need three points from every game otherwise it definitely won't happen."

The Saddlers defeat – which ended a five-match unbeaten run - was made all the more frustrating by sixth-placed Peterborough's 2-0 defeat at Wolves and Lalkovic added: "Obviously it's more lost points. Peterborough lost so it's even more disappointing but we will keep going. It's getting serious now. If we lose points now it is harder because there are only a few games left but we just have to keep going and fight till the end."

Jennison Myrie Williams' controversial 52nd minute penalty was enough to give Vale a victory which saw them leapfrog Dean Smith's men in the table and complete a first league double over the Saddlers since the 1899-1900 season.

Lalkovic, back after a hamstring injury, came closest to equalising after coming on, twice bringing saves home keeper Sam Johnson. Teenage debutant Amadou Bakayoko also had chances after coming off the bench for the ineffective Michael Ngoo, who was chosen to start up front in place of suspended top scorer Craig Westcarr.

"I came back on Thursday and trained Thursday and Friday," said Lalkovic. "I was ready and fit to play but the gaffer explained to me he was not going to risk it.

"I was just waiting to come on and do what I can. At least now we know I'm fit. It was not certain whether I would be able to go straight back in but now we know I am okay, I don't feel anything (in my hamstring)."

SMITH'S ANGER OVER PENALTY

Port Vale 1 Walsall 0

PORT Vale recorded a first league double over the Saddlers since Queen Victoria was on the throne.

The main emotion for Smith after the final whistle was anger, directed at referee Carl Berry for the penalty award which allowed Jennison Myrie Williams to score the only goal of the game.

There was also frustration at a display which – for a team supposedly still with play-off aspirations – failed to reach the heights required.

The Saddlers weren't bad, but neither were they great. Their chances of making the play-offs, admittedly already slim, are surely now gone. Mathematically, it is still possible after Peterborough's defeat at Wolves kept the gap at five points. But even so, Walsall will probably need to win at least four of their final five games and that looks a tall order.

Problem

The problem, as it has been all season, is firepower. Saturday's defeat summed up why Smith's men are going to fall short. They are strong at the back and midfield but simply don't have enough in the final third, especially now shorn of suspended top scorer Craig Westcarr.

It wasn't until after the 68th-minute arrival of Milan Lalkovic that home keeper Sam Johnson was unduly tested. Until then he'd only had to deal with long-distance efforts from Romaine Sawyers and Michael Ngoo.

Football

The latter has come in for plenty of criticism since his January arrival on loan from Liverpool. Given the nod to start ahead of Lalkovic and Troy Hewitt, this was not a performance which did anything to silence his critics.

It's not through lack of effort – the one thing the 21-year-old did was try – but he just doesn't seem to fit into this Saddlers team. His most memorable moments included a pass into space, 30 yards ahead of any teammate, a header wide and a tangle with a pitchside photographer which provoked laughter.

When Ngoo arrived at the Banks's, it was hoped he would be the final piece in the jigsaw. Instead he looks like an out-of-form young player.It was Vale's top scorer, Tom Pope, who was involved in the game's key moment when he tumbled while challenging Paul Downing for a Doug Loft through ball.

Berry immediately pointed to the spot and gave Smith, who feels his side have not had the rub of the green from officials, another reason to feel aggrieved..



Walsall striker Febian Brandy goes for the overhead kick during the match which Saddlers lost to Port Vale

Adam calls side to arms

ADAM CHAMBERS has vowed Walsall's players will keep on fighting after warning a mid-table finish could make the season appear wasted.

The Saddlers have spent the entire campaign in the top half of League One.

But a run of two wins in their last 13 matches has left once promising play-off hopes hanging by a thread and their current position of 10th is the lowest they have been since early December. And veteran midfielder Chambers says players are determined not to let the campaign simply fizzle out over the final five games, even if a top-six finish ultimately proves beyond them.

"Whatever happens we want to finish the season strong," he said.

"We would hate for the season to simply peter out and end up finishing mid-table and it look like we have wasted the season."

"We've been there or thereabouts the majority of the season and we just need to finish strong and see where that takes us."

Chambers shares striker Milan Lalkovic's view the Saddlers must win all five remaining game.

No let up vow from Jacobs

MICHAEL JACOBS has vowed Wolves won't allow complacency to stop them taking the final steps to promotion.

Whatever happens, Jacobs stressed Wolves won't let up in their quest.

"It won't come into this dressing room," he insisted.

"We set our own standards."

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, April 10

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